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MEETING OF PARANA RIVER STATES ENDS IN ASUNCION

Joint Communique Issued

PY162021Y Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Text of joint communique issued at close of Brazil-Argentina-Paraguay tripartite conference in Asuncion on 15 March 1978]

[Text] After the three countries concluded the talks during which each delegation extensively explained its point of view, it was agreed to submit a report to the respective governments so that they may determine the procedures to be followed in future tripartite negotiations.

It is pointed out once more that the delegates of the three countries debated and analyzed the issue in a climate of frankness, respect and constant cordiality.

ABC COLOR Reports Impasse

PY161957Y Asuncion ABC Color in Spanish 16 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Text] At the end of the tripartite talks, no agreement was reached and the members of the three delegations decided to submit their reports to their respective governments so that they can establish the procedure to continue the negotiations which, according to reports, will resume in the second half of April.

This new round of talks on the conciliation of interests and exploitation of the hydraulic resources of the Parana River did not achieve the expected results because Argentina demanded a 110-meter-high waterhead for the Corpus dam. In support of its position, Argentina stated that a lower waterhead would decrease the production of the dam which would not justify the investment.

Brazil, in turn, did not accept this proposal and suggested 102 meters for the waterhead of the Corpus dam because, as the Brazilian delegates stated, the height demanded by Argentina would be detrimental to the potential of Itaipu dam. This "impasse" caused the adjournment during which the governments will analyze the situation and will consider the measures which must be taken in the future.

During this period Paraguay--which is Argentina's partner in Yacyreta and Corpus and Brazil's partner in Itaipu--will also study the options which will be discussed at the coming trilateral meeting.

In spite of this situation, both Argentine and Brazilian delegates expressed optimism regarding the meeting and repeatedly pointed out--in response to questions of the journalists--that "they are satisfied with the results of the meeting" and that "the problems were analyzed and discussed with frankness and within a framework of permanent respect and friendliness."

One of the Argentine delegates stated at the end of the meeting that "for the first time the cards were laid on the table without any kind of subterfuge."

According to reports, the Argentines clearly stated their demands, adding that should these proposals be accepted the demands of the other two countries would get preferential treatment.

This, however, did nothing to change Brazil's position that the Corpus' waterhead would significantly harm Itaipu's operational capacity and production.

John Reginald Cotrim, technical director of the Itaipu binational enterprise and one of the most important members of the Brazilian delegation, briefly explained in an interview that the height of the Corpus' watershed would have an effect on Itaipu's power. The higher the waterhead of the Argentine-Paraguay project, the more the ensuing lake will undermine the power of Itaipu's water drop. Since there is a strong relation between this water drop and the water that goes through the turbines, the generated power will be reduced.

Another item subjected to lengthy discussions at the meeting was the way Itaipu would operate, since it is well known that the Argentines have frequently opposed the "peak" operation of Itaipu (this means that water is accumulated for some time and then released into the turbines to produce a great deal of power for a short period of time). This system would create problems for both navigation on the Parana below the dam and also for all the other hydroelectric projects which will be built on this river.

The Argentine delegation proposed that Brazil and Paraguay put Itaipu on "stable" operation (that is, to collect water and release it through the turbines at a steady rate) which would cause no problems downriver. This proposal was not received favorably by the Brazilians because that nation needs a lot of energy during "peak hours" due to the great number of industries which must be supplied by Itaipu, and also because "peak" operation is more appropriate to their needs, according to the explanation of the Brazilian delegates.

COFFEE-PRODUCING COUNTRIES SUSPEND EXPORTS

PA152223Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2028 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) announced today that this country has suspended coffee sales abroad. It added that the suspension will be for an indefinite period according to an agreement reached last week in El Salvador by the "other soft" coffee-producing countries.

It was revealed that the export suspension is aimed at obtaining a favorable coffee market reaction that will improve the product's international price.

Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, (?Mexico), Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela will participate in the suspension of coffee exports.

SECOND ROUND OF BEAGLE TALKS ENDS IN BUENOS AIRES

PY170248Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0050 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text of communique released by Argentine-Chilean Mixed Commission regarding Beagle Channel conflict in Buenos Aires on 16 March 1978]

[Text] The second round of meetings between the Chilean-Argentine mixed commission, aimed at making recommendations to create the necessary conditions of harmony and equity in order to avoid actions or attitudes contrary to the peaceful spirit of coexistence, which must exist between the two countries, was held on 14, 15 and 16 March 1978.

The mixed commission studied in detail the various points of the agenda. This study will continue during a third round of meetings in Santiago, Chile, on a date to be determined.

ARRESTED RAILROAD LABOR LEADER RELEASED, OTHERS IMPRISONED

PY161508Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1824 GMT 15 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar--Federal criminal judge Guillermo Rivarola today ordered the imprisonment of railroad union leaders Gustavo Paez and Luis Zambon on charges of violation of Article No 6, Law No 21,400, which carries a penalty of imprisonment of 1 to 6 years for anyone who instigates workers or employees to take measures of force.

Judge Rivarola also ordered the release of Hector Vicente Petina due to lack of evidence, although the investigation will continue.

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS--Lisbon, 16 Mar--The Argentine and Portuguese delegations, which have been negotiating here for the last 3 days, signed a draft agreement regarding mutual cooperation in the fishing, agricultural and livestock fields. They also exchanged information concerning the supply of meat and cereals. The trade balance between the two countries fully favors Argentina. From January to November 1977 Argentina exported goods to Portugal amounting to $50 million while Portugal exported to Argentina goods amounting to $1.5 million. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1205 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY]

TELEX SERVICE--Corrientes, 16 Mar--The national telecommunications service will incorporate new service this year. Corrientes, the capital of Corrientes Province, and the towns Paso de los Libres and Goya will have 46 new subscribers each to the Telex service. The new services will operate on the basis of four integrated automatic computation centers, urban and interurban, and 45 centers called Multiplex Telex, for a total of 6,400 subscriber terminal lines, which will allow a large expansion of the present net. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1735 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY]

TROOPS START 'PEACEFUL MARCH' TO CHILEAN BORDER

PY161810Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 16 Mar--It was confirmed today at army headquarters that the armed forces and the police have started a "peaceful march" today toward the Bolivian-Chilean border to scatter Bolivian flags throughout the border area.

Contingents of the Bolivian Army, Air Force, Naval forces and police left their garrisons in field equipment with armored vehicles and logistic support, marching toward the Chilean border as a symbol that "it is a duty of the armed forces to recover the sea." The troops left their garrisons equipped as for war operations, armed for battle and with supporting equipment.

Next 23 March will mark the 99th anniversary of the beginning of the so-called War of the Pacific, in which the Bolivian coastline was taken by Chile as a result of the war against the Bolivian-Peruvian confederation.

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS TIN SALE MAY HARM ECONOMY

PY162037Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Finance Minister David Blanco believes that the situation in Bolivia will be seriously affected if the tin ore prices on the international market drop as a result of the sale announced by the United States, of 45,000 tons of tin. Blanco, who had just returned from the United States, called a press conference to explain his views and categorically stated that if the tin price drops from present levels, which have been used in calculating the general budget, we are apt to face a situation which could seriously endanger the economy of the nation, beginning with artificial inflation.

ELECTORAL COURT HEAD DISCUSSES POSTPONEMENT

PY170052Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 16 Mar--The Bolivian 9 July general elections may be postponed, stated here today Julio Mantilla, president of the National Electoral Court. Mantilla added: "This postponement can be declared only if there are justified requests in that regard."

Several political leaders of the opposition, among them former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, have stated that there is practically no time left to organize an electoral campaign.

Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, the official candidate, is the only one who has been touring the country for several weeks in an electoral campaign.

Mantilla concluded: "The decision to postpone elections will be the responsibility of the government, upon a request of the National Electoral Court."

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY CHARGES GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

PY161546Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Guillermo Lora's Revolutionary Workers Party [POR] has charged that the Interior Ministry is guilty of repression against members of the party, despite the rules of the electoral process. In a letter to the National Electoral Court, POR charges that dozens of POR party members and supporters were hunted down, detained and brutally beaten on Tuesday night by Interior Ministry personnel.

POR says that this is uncivilized behavior and that [words indistinct] for the labor parties, despite the rules established for the electoral period. The letter, signed by (Alberto Saenz), concludes by stating that the government, which pretends to be impartial, has put everyting at the disposal of the offical candidate, even the organizations for repression.

LEFTIST FRONT STILL DIVIDED ON CANDIDATE

PY170242Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Several parties which are influential within the Bolivian Labor Central may promote Juan Lechin Oquendo or a peasant leader to be nominated for the presidency, leftist sources have stated to Radio Cruz del Sur.

Although leader Juan Lechin Oquendo has publicly discarded his nomination, it has been learned that Trotskyite and communist [word indistinct] alined parties are trying to nominate him to be able to present a leftist front alternative for the coming elections.

This front, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left, the [word indistinct] and other parties, so far make up the only opposition to the present candidates, Juan Pereda Asbun. The front's likely candidate, Hernan Siles Zuazo, calls this opposition a broad front and a cvil front.

In his recent press conference, former President Siles Zuazo did not discard the possibility of a reconciliation even with Victor Paz Estenssoro, who had words of praise for the nomination of Rene Bernal Escalante, former defense minister in Banzer's government. These remarks seem to indicate the decision of these parties regarding the need to have a clearer leftist definite within a labor-peasant nomination.

Mining leader Juan Lechin, who is also considered a capable politician and an experienced leader, would be [words indistinct] a dignified nomination for workers.

This leftist front, which would set the basis for the peasants to participate in the elections, reportedly is made up of the Revolutionary Workers Party, the Pro-PRC Communist Party, the (?Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left) and the Socialist Party of Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz.

The position of Siles Zuazo's front would be subject to this leftist front, to which [words indistinct] must necessarily be added as an (?electoral) vanguard. Time will tell.

O ESTADO MATERIALS ON NUCLEAR PLANT FIRES

Numerous Fires

FY152212Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Mar 78 p 19 FY

[Text] The Furnas fire brigade at Angra Dos Reis fought 71 outbreaks of fire during the period between 13 June and 7 November 1977. Fifteen of the fires occurred in the nuclear reactor building: five in June; five in July and August; and five in September and October. During that same period, there were three small fires in the turbo-generator building, and at least two fires in nuclear unit 2.

Three days after its installation, the fire brigade fought a fire in the reactor building (Cota 21), causing a short circuit in the exhaust fan's motor. At 1755 on 19 June, the brigade extinguished flames caused by a lighted cigarette thrown into a gasoline tank at unit 2 (TECNOSOLO [Soils and Materials Engineering and Technology Inc] Company). On 21 June, there was another outbreak of fire in the reactor building among old newspapers and pieces of foam. On the following day, also in the reactor building, the service squad fought another fire in the brake oil of the exterior elevator. On 29 June, there were two outbreaks in the reactor building. The first one took place in the reactor's elevator at 1100 and was caused by a short circuit. The second one happened at 2200 and was caused by a blowtorch on madeirite.

The fire brigade responded to 11 calls during July. One of these happened on 11 July in the turbo-generator building, and was caused by welding sparks falling on easily combustible material (plastic, wood, cloth, etc.). On the 25th there was a fire in the reactor building caused by the rupture of the hose on a bottle containing acetylene and madeirite.

Four outbreaks took place in the reactor building during August. The one which took place on 4 August was caused by welding sparks. On 11 August, there was a fire in the electrical switch located at the entrance to the reactor and it was caused by a short circuit. On 12 and 14 August, the fires were caused by welding sparks falling on foam sheets. During that month, there were also fires in the generators and transformers.

Some of the main incidents registered by the brigade during September were the fires in the turbo-generator (transformer) building on the 4th and the outbreak in the reactor (pool) caused by welding sparks falling on wood, foam and paper, which took place on the 9th.

The number of incidents increased remarkably during the month of October. On 6 October, there was fire in the reactor building caused by welding sparks. On the 7th, there was a fire in the reactor pool caused by welding sparks falling on madeirite, foam and oakum. On the 11th, there was a fire in the reactor building caused by welding sparks falling on hoses of the oxy-acetylene equipment. On the 13th, there was an outbreak in the reactor pool caused by welding sparks on wood, and one in unit 2 in the hoses of the oxy-acetylene equipment. On the 26th, the fire took place in a reactor building and was caused by welding sparks which fell on a mixture of oxy-acetylene and other substances. On the 31st, there was a fire in the EBE's [Brazilian Engineering Enterprise] storehouse. Reports from the fire brigade describe the incident like this: "At 1210 on 31 October 1977, there was fire in the EBE's storehouse which, as a result, was completely destroyed. The fire squad arrived at the scene at 1212, but said that the fire had already reached large proportions and, therefore, was not extinguished with the necessary speed."

The first realization of the need to establish a fire brigade at Angra Dos Reis came during a meeting, held on 2 February 1977, among Furnas, CNO [not further identified], EBE, TECHINT, and Westinghouse. Firefighting measures and alternatives were studied and analyzed. According to the written report from the Furnas Security and Hygiene Department [DSH], the need to relocate fire hydrants was mentioned, as well as an adequate number of extinguishers to be installed right away and placed strategically throughout the work site. Various types of 804 extinguishers were selected for installation.

The installation of an alarm system powered by batteries, independent of the telephone and directly linked to the brigade (with alarm switches strategically placed), was approved during the meeting held on 23 March among Furnas, Westinghouse and the other companies.

The brigade which today has 58 members (divided into groups) began operation on 31 May. According to a written report from Furnas' DSH department, "personnel recruitment has been conducted much earlier on the basis of proven ability and experience in other areas, mainly in the firemen corps, marines, air force, carioca tannery, etc., and a basic training program was prepared." According to the report, "equipment and personnel testing was conducted to guarantee the dependability of the operation."

The fire brigade of the Angra Dos Reis nuclear plant has one fire truck and six tankers (four with 10,000-liter tanks and two with 6,000-liter tanks). One, a Westinghouse contractor, has two tankers (with 6,000-liter tanks).

A recent report on the state of the Furnas tankers asserts that the bumpers of the tanker with license plate IM 2349 "are smashed, thus not permitting it to couple with the fire truck, its 1.5-inch water outlet on the left-hand side is damaged and its tank is punctured." The tanker with license plate IM 3370 "has its bumpers smashed, thus causing difficulties with the coupling of the joining screw for quick coupling." The tanker with license plate IM 0527 "does not have the necessary adaptations for its use with the firetruck" and the tanker with license plate IM 2118 also "does not have the necessary adaptations for its use with the firetruck."

The person in charge of the EBE stores was not in compliance with the Furnas manual for the storing of material because the shelves were of wood and the material was of a combustible nature (inks, plastics, solvents, etc). There was also the installation of a laboratory for testing equipment which has wooden dividers. The charges of the Furnas Security and Hygiene Department are contained in a document which has been submitted to Natercio Pereira, administrative director.

According to the report, the Security and Hygiene Department had no knowledge of what type of material was in storage because "there were always obstacles to carrying out routine inspections by the DSH security inspectors. Francisco Madeiros, EBE general administrator, charged that the stored material belonged to EBE and therefore the material was its responsibility. This fact was made known to Luiz Claudio Lambert Pereira, DSH engineer, by Osmar Bernardes de Oliveira, Furnas supervisor. During a meeting held at the work site on 31 October 1977 with the attendance, among others, of Engineer Fernando Antonio Candeias (at that time Furnas technical director), Engineer Luiz Claudio de Almeida Magalhaes (at that time Furnas president), EBE representatives and representatives of the Angra project director, the matter was submitted to those in attendance by the chief of the Security and Hygiene Department."

Jose Silverio Barbosa, Furnas DSH chief, asserted in his report about the fire that "subject to the fact that the hydrants were unreliable, the fire brigade chief sent the fire truck to the residential villa of Praia Brava for reprovisioning, while another vehicle with a pump, chemical powder and CO2 remained at the site of the fire in order to continue with the extinguishing. Seven tankers were displaced from the construction works to the site of the fire. Because of the difficulties in coupling the vehicle with the pump to the tankers, there was a discontinuation in the work of the firemen.

According to Jose Silverio Barbosa, the fact that the fire brigade chief had ordered the fire truck's reprovisioning some 5 kilometers away "was criticized by people who did not know the abovementioned facts. It must also be emphasized that in order to open the hydrant's valve, which is 1 meter underground, an appropriate wrench is needed which the brigade did not possess despite the fact that it had been requisitioned, and repeatedly so, through letter Bin. Ang. 084,77 of 26 October 1977."

The chief of the Security and Hygiene Department also reported that "the quickness with which the flames propagated in the store, was owing to the presence of easily combustible material."

EBE is a Westinghouse civil engineering subcontractor for the project at Angra 1. According to CNEN and Furnas sources, both EBE and Westinghouse are responsible for the work and its consequences. However, it is not known whether the government has ordered any punitive measures against the two enterprises. In the meantime, because of the fire which occurred on 31 October, the following persons were fired: Luis Claudio de Almeida Magalhaes, Furnas president; Fernando Candeias, technical director; Engineer Jorge Santos Basilio, project director; and Jose Alberto de Assumpcao, cabinet chief of the Furnas presidency, who was fired, according to what is known, because "he exaggerated when drafting the information cited in the administrative probe in order to harm Fernando Candeias."

Official Reports

PY151725Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Mar 78 p 19 PY

[Text] 31 October 1977 --The fire began around 1200 on the corner of Third and Eighth streets, southeast of the shed (50 meters long and 20 meters wide) belonging to the Empresa Brasileira de Engenharia [EBE]--a contractor engaged by Westinghouse. A short circuit in the electric distribution panel, located at the entrance to the instrument testing and calibration laboratory, started the fire, according to the findings of the report by the Angra dos Reis Federal Police headquarters (IPP--preliminary police investigation No 001,77, begun 3 November).

At 1210, smoke was seen coming from the storehouse and a telephone report was made to the main fire brigade by the EBE's timekeeper, Levy Fray Junion, license 3568.

Fire destroyed the laboratory area (always kept closed) within minutes and reached the administrative office (where documents and the equipment's index cards were kept) and the company's storehouse, damaging or destroying innumerable nuclear valves, cables, conductors, connectors, connecting pipes, junction boxes, and approximately 300 fire detectors equipped with radioactive americium 241.

The Furnas fire brigade arrived on the scene minutes after the fire began and reported, according to the written report from the company's administrative investigation commission dated 5 December 1977, that they were "not equipped to fight fires." The investigation, conducted by Sergio Marques Peixoto, Antonio Ernesto Ferreira Muller and Francisco de Assis Chagas de Mello e Silva from Furnas, was sent to Luiz Claudio de Almeida Magalhaes, the company's president at the time, by the then-cabinet chief Jose Alberto de Assumpcao on 7 December 1977 under the number CG.P.I.004,77. In the document, Alberto Assumpcao says: "In fulfillment of the directives of [the company's] president in private memorandum No 001,77 dated 1 November, and after the appointment of a subcommission for the administrative investigation, the commission met and proceeded to take depositions at the worksite itself, during the first phase of its task, then at the Furnas main office--thus totaling 34 depositions and several related documents and written reports."

In spite of the fact that the Furnas fire brigade "arrived at the site quickly, its first actions were confused not only by the presence of a great number of strange persons giving contradictory orders, but also by a lack of efficient leadership and experience which would lead the firemen to battle the fire in an organized and rational way," according to the Furnas administrative investigation. According to the document, the firemen: 1) were fearless and dedicated, although inexperienced and untrained; 2) were ineffective because they fought the flames from outside the building, facing into the wind; 3) the firemen did not have appropriate garments for the job nor gas masks, which prevented them from performing their duty in the most logical manner (from the inside out). In addition, if the fire had been battled differently and had not spread from the site, the fire truck would have had a good chance of preventing the fire from spreading to the rest of the storehouse; 4) the only fire truck equipped to fight the flames left the site because the water in its tanks had been exhausted. Because it was the only vehicle equipped with a "cannon" and water pumps necessary for the endeavor, the truck should have stayed at the fire site supplying itself with water from the tank trucks there and should not have been removed from the site. The firemen seemed to know so very little about the water resources at Itaorna (hydrants, gravel washing pool and sea water pumping for the unit's foundations) that the fire trucks were refilled at Praia Braval, five kilometers away.

The industrial security department chief--still according to the Furnas administrative investigation report--"because he did not have even theoretical knowledge of fire fighting techniques, exerted little direction over the fire brigade." The firefighting corps "lacks training in techniques, the use of available equipment, and, finally, concerning knowledge of the area under its responsibility and the resources offered there. The buildings of the main center, especially the reactor and security buildings, do not have efficient fire fighting systems (the extinguishers it now has are useful for battling incipient fires)." These areas are critically important because they are under construction, "and there is an enormous amount of wood inside where welding is being done and there are a great many workers carrying out their tasks." According to the investigation report, the network of hydrants presently at Itaorna and Manbucaba are insufficient and the water supply should be more dependable. Neither is there an evacuation plan for the area, should it become necessary.

The brief report on the fire at the warehouse of Angra 1 in Itaorna, prepared by Gen Armando Barcellos, head of the Security and Information Bureau [ASI] of the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN], dated 3 November 1977 (report No 065/77 ASI/CNEN) arrived at conclusions similar to those of the Furnas investigation. The general pointed out the "lack of coordination and control of security operations and the lack of control of the personnel who work there." In his report, the head of CNEN's ASI stated that he saw "a great number of workers driving vehicles at speeds far greater than those which should be allowed within the project and indicated that "he was unable to secure information as to whether these workers had undergone prior political, ideological or criminal screening." According to him there is no place to keep the keys of the locked facilities. In general, the person who locks the door is responsible for the key and he takes it with him, as had happened at the warehouse where the fire took place: The person who had the key went for lunch to Playa Brava taking with him the key to the front door of the laboratory."

General Barcellos emphasized that "the fire started at the laboratory around 1145 when everybody had gone to lunch." As to the firefighting at Angra, the general stated that "there are few extinguishers and they may not be enough for some cases. The extingishers on hand in the warehouse which caught fire could not be used. There the fire lasted approximately 1 and 1/2 hours." The general's report also indicated that "in general, the existing installations and facilities are fire-prone because they are not equipped for such a possibility nor have they taken the appropriate preventive measures." Gen Armando Barcellos stated his belief that "there may be other fires," including at the workers quarters which are build entirely of wood. In his report, sent to the security and information division of the Mines and Energy Ministry, General Barcellos criticizes the existing fire service which, according to him, "is unreliable and hardly sufficient to take care of any emergency like the one which took place." He added that he was told that the fire truck "had no water when it arrived at the site of the fire and it was necessary to bring water in buckets. These, however, proved to be insufficient and the fire destroyed the entire warehouse."

The consequences of the office fire are also mentioned in the general's report. "The entire stock file was in the laboratory and it was totally destroyed. To determine what material has been destroyed, it will be necessary to compare the lists of the materials which have been already distributed and of the materials which had arrived. They also told me that the fire was yellow-colored and had extended in every direction."

In stating his opinion on the fire, the head of ASI indicated that it is necessary "to quickly reorganize the security system, including control of incoming and outgoing personnel, control of the installations facilities, creation of security areas, establishment of a log for accidents, regardless of their size, and a centralized coordination of all activities and services at the plant."

General Barcellos stated that "everyone was aware of the importance of the warehouse which caught fire. My impression is that, given the facts that the fire started at lunch time, that there was no one to open the door of the warehouse, that the firemen had no water in their fire truck, that the firemen broke through the walls at the wrong place--allowing the fire to spread easily--was just too much coincidence."

General Barcellos also indicated that "the lack of control of workers and technicians from the point of view of screening makes it difficult to point out suspects, or groups of suspects, within the works." In conclusion, Barcellos stated that "the result of this fire, and of others of lesser proportions which have occurred at Angra 1 before, leads one to suspect hidden interests of a political, ideological or even of a bureaucratic nature. To protect the project from future actions of this nature, I believe it necessary to implement urgent measures aimed at the reorganization of security systems and area control.

Sabotage Suspected

PY151858Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Mar 78 p 20 PY

[Text] "Some strange events have happened in the construction of Angra 1, such as the event described by Westinghouse Engineer Bob Silvester, who asserts that one of the turbines has been sabotaged. The oil had been changed and the transformer pressurized with nitrogen. The next day the transformer showed zero pressure, the oil had been removed and the tank was full of water." This passage is included in the report which Rex Nazare Alves, director of the reactor department of the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN], submitted to Gen Armando Barcellos, chief of CNEN's Security and Information Bureau.

To this report the general added his opinion concerning the fire and submitted the two reports to the Security and Information Division of the Mines and Energy Ministry, an organization linked to the National Intelligence Service. In his report, the general refers to acts of sabotage and asserts that "the result of this and other fires lead to the suspicion of hidden interests of a political, ideological or even of a bureaucratic nature." Meanwhile, officially the preliminary police investigations carried out by the Angra Dos Reis Federal Police delegation reached the conclusion that the "fire was not of a criminal nature, there having been no criminal intent or blame, simply a misfortune." [caso fortuito]

Meanwhile, other misfortunes have frequently occurred during the construction of Angra 1. In an unofficial document titled: "Complementary Information About the Fire in Angra"--(security coordinators meeting on 24 November 1977), reference to sabotage is much more obvious:

"There is information that this could possibly be the fifth act of significant sabotage (there has been a probe in this respect) carried out at the construction site. This sabotage is attributed to foreign interests, in order to interfere with the objectives of the nuclear agreement." The security coordinators' document also asserts that "radioactive material was involved in the cause of the fire and that a significant area became contaminated. This contamination affected seven officials who are now in hospitals." The report also indicates that "it is CNEN's understanding that international repercussions are the worst consequences of the fire. The prevailing opinion is that there may be a lack of Brazilian expertise for the construction of a thermonuclear plant and, it is emphasized, even more so for its operation."

According to a general linked with the government's security forces, the security coordinators' report has no meaning and is a pack of lies. It is based on rumors spread among the security coordinators by a person or persons who are interested in creating conflicts. The security coordinators, the general makes clear, are officials belonging to private and public enterprises who meet every month to exchange general information. "It is probable that one of the coordinators, interested in launching rumors, made up these absurd assertions about the accident," added the general. Those responsible for the security of CESP [Sao Paulo Power Plants], VOTORANTIM [no further identification], Shell, Volkswagen, TELESP [Sao Paulo Telecommunications Co.], PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], Banco Itau and Light, etc., participate in these meetings, according to the general.

First case: Some months ago, when the concrete was being poured for the reactor building, a counterweight (weighing approximately 1 ton) came loose from a derrick and fell exactly on the dome of the shielding [calota do vaso de contencao] which is considered to be one of the most vital components for the physical protection of a nuclear plant in case of reactor accidents. The damage was not significant because, luckily, the counterweight fell on the crossties and iron reinforcing rods on which the concrete is poured.

Second case: Another "misfortune," as it was termed by the Federal Police, took place approximately 3 months ago at the fuel warehouse [edificio de combustivel] of Angra 1, when the rolling crane to handle the fuel was being tested (the fuel is composed of tubes made of highly resistant material--such as zircaloy--which contain the enriched uranium pellets that go into the reactor), a counterweight was lifted by the rolling crane and one of the steel cables snapped. The counterweight hit the "rack" where the fuel elements were to be placed.

Third case: Seven months ago there was an inexplicable clogging of the concrete supply pipe [linha de cimento].

Fourth case: At the end of 1975, the pipe that carried the concrete clogged. At that time the technicians decided to solve the problem by using a "biriba" (a bushing which is sent into the piping under high water and air pressure). The piping could not stand the pressure and the "biriba" burst one of the pipes and hit a Furnas engineer, who was standing nearby, in the head. The engineer's helmet shattered and his skull was fractured. However, today the engineer is in good health and still working at Angra.

Fifth case: The fire at the Empresa Brazileira de Engenharia (EBE) warehouse at lunch time: The door to the laboratory was locked and the keys were with the person in charge, who was away. The lack of water, the water hydrants which were not used, the impossibility of connecting the tank trucks to the fire truck, the disappearance of the hose-carrying truck, the performance of the firemen; all these factors have led some technicians and persons in charge of security to suppose that it was more than a "misfortune."

Relations between the German engineers and technicians (of Kraftwerk Union-KWU) and their American counterparts (of Westinghouse) "are not the best" according to a high-ranking source connected with the construction of Angra 1. According to this source "when something goes wrong for the Germans they blame the Americans and when something goes wrong for the Americans they blame the Germans." As an example, the source mentioned engineer Bob Silvester of Westinghouse, who after speaking about sabotage, was transferred to Westinghouse headquarters in the United States. He no longer works for Westinghouse, according to his former coworkers at Angra dos Reis. Another Westinghouse engineer in charge of assembly at Angra 1, refused to sign the statement he made after the accident which took place in October 1977. Robert Bruce Morson made a statement to Furnas officials in charge of the administrative investigation. He answered all the questions but refused to sign the papers.

According to one source, both Americans and Germans suspect sabotage. Americans--like Bruce Morson and Bob Silvester--believe that the Germans are interested in "delaying construction of Angra 1 so that it can begin operating on a commercial basis only after Angra 2 is ready, the latter being built by the Germans." The same source added that "the Germans want to undermine the morale of Westinghouse and demonstrate their own efficiency in the assembly and construction of nuclear plants, thus confirming Brazil's choice in having selected the Germans to develop its nuclear program."

The Germans are saying that the Americans are interested in "disrupting" the construction of Brazilian nuclear plants. "The Americans are interested in thwarting the construction of the plants by trying to scare people and also seek to demonstrate the lack of technical capabilities of the Brazilians so that the International Atomic Energy Agency, headquartered in Vienna, will urge the international community to call for the suspension of Brazil's nuclear program," according to another source.

This source stated that "the Americans are trying to provide President Jimmy Carter with ammunition for his artillery aimed against Brazil's nuclear program."

Geisel's Briefing

PY152016Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Mar 78 p 20 PY

[Text] "Mr President, being the first of its kind the Angra 1 nuclear plant must set the example, and for this it must be well built and very well operated. Every precaution and every care must be taken. At Angra Dos Reis we are laying the cornerstone of Brazil's nuclear program. Should there be any problems, it would be extremely harmful to our nuclear program. Mr President, Angra 1 must constitute an example." (statement by Professor Hervasio de Carvalho, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] when addressing President Geisel at the meeting held from 14-16 February [year not given] at Planalto Palace and attended by Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki, Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, two of the latter's advisers and NUCLEBRAS [Brazilian Nuclear Corporations] President Paulo Nogueira Batista.

"I believe you are right. I recall the care and precautions which everyone had exercised during the construction of the Cubatao plant." (Apparently the answer of President Geisel, referring to the Cubatao Oil Refinery in Sao Paulo.)

"Therefore, Mr President, the timetable of the project must be flexible. It is necessary to 'clean' [limpar] the plant, test every part of its equipment and run checks of all systems. Preoperational tests must be carried cut with the greatest efficiency because the performance of the plant will depend on this. There may be need for small adjustments and small malfunctions may appear during these preoperational tests. That is why these tests are very important. For these tests, Mr President, it is impossible to establish deadlines," Professor Hervasio stated.

"I believe that Professor Hervasio is exaggerating a little bit. Things are not as bad as that," was the reply to Paulo Nogueira Batista, president of NUCLEBRAS.

"Please, Mr Paulo Nogueira Batista, you are greatly mistaken and I wish you would not labor under a misapprehension," answered Hervasio de Carvalho.

In general terms, this would seem to have been the dialog between President Geisel and Professor Hervasio and Paulo Nogueira Batista, according to what a high-ranking source reported to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO.

According to still another source, Professor Hervasio de Carvalho had referred to Furnas reports which had stated that "the workers are forced to relieve themselves inside the building because there are no sanitary facilities." Professor Hervasio discussed this matter with President Geisel, and Minister Ueki interjected his comments. According to our report, this was the exchange:

"In addition to all this, Mr President, the Angra workers are urinating on nuclear equipment. It will be necessary to wash the whole thing," stated Hervasio de Carvalho.

"Now wait a moment, Hervasio, I see now that you are truly exaggerating. I agree that it is necessary to be cautious, that Angra 1 is the cornerstone, but as to urination, there is none of that," interjected Minister Ueki.

Still according to the same report of the high-ranking source, President Geisel had then told the persons present at the meeting that this kind of problem is common in any large construction.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Shigeaki Ueki and Paulo Nogueira Batista left, greatly concerned over the statement of Hervasio de Carvalho, and had apparently called upon ELETROBRAS [Brazilian Power Companies Inc] President Antonio Carlos Magalhaes to tell him that "Hervasio had been exaggerating," according to the same source. In the meantime, other sources connected with Minister Ueki indicated that he did not contact Antonio Carlos Magalhaes to tell him about Hervasio's exaggerations.

However, in the opinion of the officials and technicians related to the Brazilian nuclear program, the program is being implemented with "full success" despite the problems with the construction of the first nuclear plant. According to a high-ranking source from nuclear circles, the "politico-personal maneuvers" of certain men, who are placed in key positions, are to blame for the obstacles which hindered the operation of the various concerns and government organizations.

Other sources have also stated that, through the creation of NUCLEBRAS its president, Diplomat Paulo Nogueira Batista, had attempted to undermine the importance of certain organizations such as CNEN, seeking the support of, and the supremacy over, other organizations which control the country's energy policy, such as ELETROBRAS and Furnas--the latter on the grounds of its building the first nuclear plant.

With the appointment of former Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes as president of ELETROBRAS, the area of influence of NUCLEBRAS underwent a change, according to various sources. At first Paulo Nogueira Batista achieved certain control over Furnas activities. When the then-president of Furnas, Luis Claudio de Almeida Magalhaes, tried to achieve greater independence from NUCLEBRAS, his clashes with Paul Nogueira Batista became more frequent and ended with his dismissal.

In line with the statements of various officials connected with the energy sector of the country, Paulo Nogueira Batista's intention is to "monopolize the entire nuclear sector." The sources added that in this manner the legal status of NUCLEN--Nuclebras Engineering, Inc--would be changed and the enterprise would broaden its scope of action: In addition to engineering projects the enterprise would also take charge of the assembly and construction of Brazilian nuclear plants.

ELETROBRAS subsidiaries which hold the concessions on power supply (such as CESP [Sao Paulo Power Plants], Furnas, CEMIG [Minas Gerais Power Plants], ELETROSUL [Southern Power Plants], and so forth) would be in charge only of the operation of the nuclear plants which would be delivered to them fully operational. To many persons connected to the sector, this would not be favorable for the country. They say that first of all the cost of the nuclear plants would increase substantially, and secondly, that to be able to operate a nuclear plant efficiently one must be involved with it from the very beginning of its construction. The sources stated that NUCLEBRAS' intentions in this regard are part of a political maneuver which has helped to disrupt the progress of the nuclear program.

There is still another trend of thought, upheld by the energy and mines minister's advisers and experts, which is favorable to NUCLEBRAS' idea (of infusing NUCLEN with new and greater powers). These experts and advisers feel that Furnas is now coordinating the construction and assembly of Angra 1 and that "the lack of experience of this enterprise has helped to cause the delays which are, after all, costing a lot of money."

According to these experts the construction of a nuclear central cannot be compared to the construction of a hydroelectric dam. When one is building a nuclear plant, the construction of the building and the assembly of the equipment take place at the same time. In view of this, coordination must be in the hands of an enterprise with experience in this type of construction. Westinghouse was hired to replace Furnas in this job. NUCLEN will probably be the one to coordinate the construction and the assembly of the Angra 2 and Angra 3 nuclear plants.

In addition to all this there are other political problems which have helped to hinder the development of the nuclear program. Because this is an election year, "everyone wants to know whether he will stay or leave," according to a high-ranking source.

According to the same source, the conflict between Hervasio and Nogueira Batista during the meeting with President Geisel is an example of political undercurrents. Paulo Nogueira Batista wants to dedicate Angra 1 (a preliminary official dedication prior to preoperation tests) during the current administration. According to the source, he will thus demonstrate his own efficiency to the future president of the nation, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, who may not be inclined to keep him in his job as NUCLEBRAS president. At the same time, Hervasio de Carvalho is more concerned over the proper functioning of Angra 1 because CNEN is responsible to the international organizations, for the construction and operation of the nuclear plants, and Hervasio has a long career and a reputation to protect.

Experts' Opinions

PY160223Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portugese 14 Mar 78 p 16 PY

[Text] Six engineers--specialists in nuclear construction--who are working at the Angra 1 project, were questioned on 6 March at the Political and Social Police Division [DPPS] of Rio de Janeiro State. They were taken to the police because they refused to sign a document prepared by the presidency of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS] in which they were to attest to the complete industrial safety of the nuclear plant and dispel any doubts regarding the feasibility of this project. The document, which was to be signed by the six internationally renowned engineers, would have been used by NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista in the negotiations he held in Europe during Geisel's trip to the FRG.

The letter-commitment had been personally delivered to each engineer by Nogueira Batista himself a week before the scheduled trip to the FRG. At the meetings they held, first separately and then jointly, with the NUCLEBRAS president, the engineers stated the reasons which prevented them from signing the document, the errors which had been committed over the years in the construction of the Angra 1 plant. One of their major objections dealt with structural problems which, according to the engineers, could not only jeopardize the functioning of Angra 1, but could also endanger the lives of thousands of workers engaged in its construction and of people living in adjacent areas.

After holding a frank conversation with Nogueira Batista, who listened with interest to their viewpoints and even agreed with some of their observations--primarily those regarding inadequate warehouses, in which highly combustible material was kept--the engineers believed that the matter had been closed and that their observations had been accepted by the NUCLEBRAS president.

On Sunday, 5 March, they were summoned to report to the DPPS quarters in Rio de Janeiro on Monday for questioning. They were summoned verbally by a policeman and a police car was posted in front of the house of each engineer until Monday morning. On Monday, the six engineers were taken in a NUCLEBRAS bus to Rio de Janeiro to be questioned at the DPPS.

The bus arrived at Relacao Street at approximately 0930 and to avoid calling attention, it was parked on one of the parking lots of TV Educativa, located on Gomes Freire Ave., right in front of the former location of "Correio da Manha." The engineers then reported to the DPPS head, Brito Pereira, who questioned them separately. Brito Pereira expressed his surprise at the "antipatriotic attitude" shown by the engineers, by refusing to sign a document which would benefit Brazil. During the questioning, Brito Pereira inquired about the reasons which led the engineers to refuse to sign the letter-commitment. They claimed that this was a highly specialized matter which could not be easily understood by Brito Pereira, noting that they had already conveyed to the NUCLEBRAS president their reasons for not signing and adding that Nogueira Batista had vowed to take immediate measures. During the questioning, and after hinting that they may lose their jobs as a result of the position they had assumed, Brito Pereira handed another document--which, although having a different wording, had a similar content--to the engineers, urging them to sign it, "at which time the matter will be considered closed." The engineers again refused to sign the new version of the document, which originally had been presented to them by the NUCLEBRAS president, noting that this was not a matter of keeping their jobs but that they could not overlook the existence of infrastructural defects which were threatening the feasibility of the plant.

When he ran out of arguments, Brito Pereira banged the table several times, regretting the "lack of understanding and love for Brazil" shown by the engineers who, after being secretly questioned, were released by the DPPS and taken back to the plant in the same bus which had taken them to Rio de Janeiro in the morning. Fearing that they could be taken to the Department of Political and Social Order [DOPS], the engineers contacted an attorney who did not attend the questioning but who chose to wait for the outcome of the questioning outside the DPPS building, on Relacao street.

The engineers were surprised by the fact that the DPPS had detailed information on their activities within the plant, which led them to believe that there is a close connection between the Furnas security services and the state government security services. Brito Pereira showed great irritation over the visit which an American professor made recently to the nuclear plant work area, in response to an invitation extended to him by one of the engineers--who had been his student for 4 years in the United States.

In an outburst of rage, Brito Pereira said that "while you were giving all kinds of information to the Americans, you are giving me only evasive answers. The engineer who had invited the American professor to visit the plant then told the DPPS head that the American professor--who is currently the scientific adviser of the American Embassy in Brasilia--was not looking for information since he is one of the leading authorities in nuclear energy, adding that his visit to the Angra 1 nuclear plant had been extremely useful considering the observations he had made regarding the installations. One of the engineers sought to calm the police official by noting that Westinghouse, the major supplier of equipment to the plant, was an American enterprise and had detailed information on the floors and schemes of construction of the plant.

The questioning of the engineers at DPPS headquarters stirred uneasiness among high-level experts involved in the Angra I project. These experts were upset by the means used by NUCLEBRAS to cover up the defects existing in the nuclear complex, that is, by seeking to intimidate the scientists and engineers who have been reporting successive errors made in the implementation of the project.

Minister Admits Problems

PY160130Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 16 PY

[Excerpts] Even though he personally disliked the fact that O ESTADO had released details about the lack of security in the execution of the Brazilian nuclear program, Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki acknowledged that the details are "an important warning regarding security in the construction of nuclear reactors in Brazil."

After explaining that he had already ordered the ministry's internal security division to open an administrative inquiry in order to see how secret documents which dealt with the fire which occurred in Angra 1 had come into the hands of O ESTADO, the minister insisted that even before the documents were published he had taken remedial action concerning the problem, "including the replacement of high-ranking officials in the Furnas boards of directors." According to Ueki, these high-ranking officials did not know how to correct the security problem in Angra Dos Reis. Meanwhile, the minister preferred not to go into detail concerning replacements on the Furnas board of directors. "We must not step on the fallen ones," he said.

Ueki denied that the release of details by O ESTADO was intended to harm the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement and could provoke negative repercussions abroad. "Nothing separates the two countries in their common destiny regarding the nuclear problem," he emphasized.

Although he admitted that to err too much is also improper, the minister recalled that there must be a necessary understanding for certain errors which were committed by the leadership in the construction of Angra 1. He also indicated that there was no sabotage in the series of fires which occurred in the area, noting that they are commonplace in the construction of steel plants and other types of industrial complexes.

Ueki also pointed out that Angra 2 and Angra 3 will be built under FRG security regulations, "which are much more rigorous than those imposed by the United States." For the minister, this does not mean that the Westinghouse techniques are "more lax," but caution will be redoubled in accordance with the weekly instructions which President Geisel gives to Ueki.

The minister believes that the O ESTADO report was positive with regard to the warning concerning the care to be used in the building of a nuclear plant. In this sense, he indicated that he had ordered the boards of directors of Furnas and the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN], besides explaining the measures which are to be adopted in an official note, not to deny journalists any type of information regarding the construction of Angra 1 or the other plants which are to be built, including the normal problems which may arise.

Ueki indicated that he was sorry that the fire had forced "a slight delay in the construction of Angra 1," also confirming that there is no date set for the resumption of operations in the area. The minister indicated that he has not yet received the new work schedule or a final report on the matter. Initially, Ueki estimated a 4-5 month delay, and at the present time, there is no estimate of the time needed to recover from the delay.

The minister guaranteed that the problems faced during the construction of Angra 1 will not be repeated in the construction of Angra 2 and Angra 3. He emphasized the fact and made it quite clear that the current errors are administrative, never technical. The minister believes that the problems of nuclear security must be conducted in a rational and never an emotional form. "I approve of criticism and observations being made, so that all of us are helping the country in this difficult task of forging independence in the nuclear field," he added.

Meanwhile, Ueki stated that the population must not be frightened by sensational commentaries and he emphasized that CNEN is adopting its own security regulations based on Brazilian conditions. According to the minister, President Geisel--who also disliked the publishing of the information--has to have a joint document drafted by the Mines and Energy and Industry and Commerce ministries which deals with the creation of an enterprise, of the foundation type, which will police not only nuclear quality control but also security.

The government, through ELETROBRAS in an official note, will answer the report published in O ESTADO. On releasing this information, Col Toledo Camargo, the presidency's press adviser, explained that, as the Angra Dos Reis plants are directly under Furnas, which in turn is under ELETROBRAS, the government's official word will be released by the state enterprise. Toledo has already contacted Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, ELETROBRAS president, in order to receive information concerning the answer to O ESTADO's report.

Despite the concern the issue caused government authorities, Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira asserted that the matter was not discussed during a meeting he attended Sunday afternoon with President Geisel and Mining and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki. The foreign minister said, "the matter does not worry me enough for me to lose any sleep. I was not even mentioned in the article, since it does not concern Itamaraty.

"I did not discuss my opinions on the problem with the president and Minister Ueki because the meeting dealt with a new round of talks with Paraguay and Argentina on the Parana River," he said. However, the foreign minister admitted that he was aware of the problem and explained that he had reflected on the subject since he was a "responsible man."

He explained that the Brazilian Government considers the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement issue to be settled. Azeredo tried to avoid stating that Brazil's stand for the dialog with U.S. President Jimmy Carter was strengthened by the good results obtained during Geisel's visit to the FRG. The foreign minister predicted that the talks with Carter "will be honest and fruitful for both nations." He suggested that reporters ask Carter, during his visit to Brazil, if the United States thought the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement was an accomplished fact.

Brazilian and foreign diplomatic circles most closely linked with nuclear affairs avoided commenting on the reports of a lack of security in the Brazilian nuclear program. The Embassy of the Netherlands, the country which made the most demands for additional safeguards in Brazil's nuclear program, limited itself to saying that the matter concerned only the Brazilian Government. Counselor Luis Felipe Lampreia, Itamaraty's spokesman, repeated what Foreign Minister Azeredo said, that is, the issue does not concern the Foreign Ministry.

Military circles are not worried about a delay in the schedule of construction, or about any incident related to the construction of Brazil's nuclear plants, because "it is not a matter of national security." In a general way, the military does not associate the construction of Angra 1 with its concept of national security, "which is broad and deals more with things already in operation." Nonetheless, military circles admit that they will begin to consider them as such when the problems are dealt with by the National Security Council Secretariat, and begin to involve national security interests.

For the time being, according to these circles, the army's duty is to guard the area, but "any incident related to the construction area of the first nuclear plant in Angra Dos Reis is the sole responsibility of the companies, which should follow essential security measures."

Some military sectors considered the accusations made by O ESTADO to be very serious since they point out the frailties of a system which, because of its importance, should have the most efficient protection in every aspect. Some observers regretted that the Angra case should become public knowledge at a time when international confidence in the Brazilian nuclear program is reaffirmed by two important facts: Geisel's visit to the FRG and U.S. authorization to export the uranium necessary for the first phase of the Angra Dos Reis plant.

Those observers thought it strange that so many secret or confidential documents would be made public. Even while admitting the constructive aspect of the accusations, there are so many national and foreign interests involved that it is difficult to establish the motivations of all of them.

Senator Magalhaes Pinto declined to make any specific comments concerning the lack of security in the construction of the Angra Dos Reis nuclear plant. He stated: "As the former foreign minister, I took the necessary political measures to allow Brazil the use of nuclear energy in its development. The accusations are very serious, but they relate to strictly technical aspects in which I do not want to get involved. I believe that NUCLEBRAS and the Mining and Energy Ministry have the obligation of answering the accusations made."

Netherlands Leaders Comment

FY161444Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Mar 78 p 8 FY

[By O ESTADO Correspondent William Waack]

[Text] Bonn--"I believe it is not necessary to say too much about Brazil's ability to build and, possibly, operate nuclear reactors." This was the first reaction of Deputy Leo Jansen of the Netherlands Radical Democratic Party upon learning about the accidents which took place during the construction of the Angra 1 reactor. Some of the material published in Brazil was reported yesterday by a Netherlands newspaper.

"We should ask the Brazilian military regime if security measures and other basic principles in the construction of nuclear installations are respected there as in other countries, as no one is controlling the construction there," Jansen stated. In the deputy's opinion, the Angra incident just confirms his party's position. "We are against the expansion of the Almelo uranium enrichment installations and against uranium shipments to Brazil because we believe this would increase the world's nuclear energy supply, and consequently, the risk of accidents in nuclear reactors."

Sources in the Netherlands Democratic Socialist Party, the largest opposition party, expressed similar thoughts. "If we can consider these accidents as an indication of the quality of work in Brazil, then it is obvious that the construction of nuclear reactors in that country represents a very great risk for everyone," according to a party source.

Deputy van Houweilingen of the Christian Democratic Party (presently in power) expressed a totally different opinion from his opposition colleagues in parliament. He says, "I believe incidents of this type can happen in any country, not just in Brazil."

The Christian Democrat deputy does not see any link between the shipment of enriched uranium and the Angra Dos Reis accidents. It is obvious that this report will be one more argument in favor of those who oppose nuclear energy, but I don't believe this will be of fundamental importance here in the Netherlands Parliament. Van Houweilingen stated that these accidents "constitute a problem of a general nature," which the Netherlands will probably not deal with since "it is not our responsibility."

The meeting between Netherlands Foreign Minister van der Klaauw and representatives of various parties which form the parliamentary Atomic Energy Commission may not take place this week as scheduled. Van Houweilingen, who is the author of the motion approved by Parliament on 1 February establishing additional demands for the shipment of enriched uranium to Brazil, is optimistic about reaching a compromise with URENCO partners [the FRG and Britain] and believes it is still too soon to make a final determination.

"I believe that with a few more days of negotiations we will find a satisfactory solution which will prevent a breach within URENCO," the Netherlands deputy says. Even so, several politicians, diplomats and German businessmen close to the nuclear sector told Netherlands newspapers over the weekend that the possibility of an agreement concerning the Hague parliament's demands was practically nil.

According to reports from the FRG, a group of British M.P.s are preparing to formally question the government next Monday on the announced credits through British financial firms, for the shipment of uranium to Brazil. A German insurance company, Hermes, estimated the amount of insurance at DM480 million for the Angra 2 and 3 reactors, setting up fuel facilities, and a price increase which accounts for almost half of the amount cited.

Detour Under Study

PY161535Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 17 PY

[Text] The construction of a detour on the Rio de Janeiro-Santos Highway in the neighborhood of the Angra Dos Reis nuclear complex has been under study for at least 2 years by the government's security forces under the control of rigorous regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The motive is to avoid possible terrorist actions. Nevertheless, according to high ranking sources of the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN], the study never progressed.

Adm Jose Carneiro Toscano de Brito, prefect of Angra Dos Reis, indicated yesterday that he had no knowledge of the lack of security at the plant and emphasized that he is not a technician and therefore could not comment on the matter. "It is an election year and there is a lot of speculation. The city does not have the infrastructure to lodge the workers. It is enough to say that our fire brigade consists of only 15 men."

Journalist Jose Carlos Rabelo, living in the city, also commented on the lack of security at the plant and reported an event which had occurred at Angra:

"The prefect told me that a relative of his, a navy diver decided to test the plant's security. He gained entrance without being bothered and placed false bombs in several parts of the plant. He then left and advised security that the bombs were about to explode. It was the only way in which security would make an inspection for bombs."

Carlos Alberto Rocha, president of the local MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] chapter, indicated that the population of Angra had no knowledge of the fires and the lack of security "because they were not allowed to get close to the plant.

"Because of the lack of information, there is a constant flow of rumors concerning the plant's accidents. I have been frightened by the charges made by O ESTADO and JORNAL DA TARDE. I cannot believe that there have been 71 fires in 5 months."

GEISEL URGES GREATER CARE WITH ANGRA 2, 3

PY160147Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 34 PY

[Excerpt] President Geisel has recommended that greater care and attention be taken in the construction of the Angra 2 and Angra 3 nuclear plants, which are under Furnas responsibility, to avoid similar damage to that which occurred in Angra 1, which was caught by a fire of great proportions in October last year.

On making this disclose to the press yesterday, Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki said that the release of secret documents on irregularities which occurred in the Angra Dos Reis Nuclear Plant will force the Brazilian Government to redouble its attention on the safety of reactors "to execute the project with greater care."

FURNAS COMMUNIQUE RESPONDS TO O ESTADO ARTICLES

PY160011Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 34 PY

[Text of official communique issued by Furnas Centrais Electricas on 13 March 1978]

[Text] With respect to the reports published by the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in its Sunday edition dated 12 March concerning the fire which took place within the construction area of the Adm Alvaro Alberto Nuclear Plant on 31 October 1977, Furnas Centrais Electricas S.A. reports the following:

1. The fire which destroyed the storehouse of the Empresa Brasileira de Engenharia (EBE) started accidentally, as officially announced at the time and stressed in press reports.

2. The construction of nuclear plants demands various mounting [montagem] services which require large-scale welding and sophisticated testing, and the incidence of accidents and fires in similar projects throughout the world has been proved.

3. The administrative investigation conducted by Furnas confirmed the need for greater security measures in the area. A series of measures have already been taken, many of which are now completely implemented.

4. As is normal in major projects of the complexity and importance of the Adm Alvaro Alberto Nuclear Plant, the company's leadership is constantly concerned about perfecting the organization's structural system in order to improve the operation and efficiency of the supervision and construction teams.

5. Furnas, aware of the magnitude of the task entrusted to it and of its consequent responsibility, can assure that it will continue to offer its best efforts for the conclusion of Angra 1 and the construction of Angra 2 and 3, the first phase of the Brazilian nuclear program. Signed, Luiz Carlos Barreto de Carvalho, president

CNEN HEAD ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON O ESTADO REPORTS

PY160039Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 34 PY

[Text of communique issued by Rex Nazare Alves, acting president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, in Rio de Janeiro on 12 March]

[Text] The National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] does not believe that the security of the nuclear plants being built in Angra is endangered to the extent of having to discontinue their construction.

The first Brazilian nuclear plant is an American-made Westinghouse plant, built by Furnas. This plant is of the pressured light-water type which will produce 626 MW.

In line with Brazilian law, Furnas is responsible for the construction and operation of this plant. At the same time, CNEN is responsible for the implementation of all the appropriate measures to guarantee the safe operation of the nuclear plants at all stages, beginning with the review of the draft, the overseeing of the construction, the preoperational tests and the final operation.

Every one of the rules which apply to the installation of nuclear powerplants to be built in the country were set down by CNEN resolution No 06/72, dated 18 February 1972.

The proceedures set down in the above resolution are similar to those developed in other industrialized countries, and closely follow the ones recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Thus, CNEN has studied the preliminary security report on the first unit of the Almirante Alvaro Alberto nuclear plant, has authorized the construction of said nuclear plant and has established the additional conditions which must be fulfilled.

For this, CNEN has used the procedures established by the standard review planning [given in English] for granting licenses for the installation of powerplants in the United States, because the plant is U.S.-made, as well as additional rules and guidelines.

Even since the site of the plant and the preliminary security report was approved, and during the entire construction of Angra 1, CNEN has maintained two resident engineers, one of whom is from the IAEA, at the site of the project with specific instructions to oversee the works. At the same time there have been weekly local quality control inspections which apply not only to Furnas but also to its subcontracted firms.

The procedure allows CNEN to get acquainted with the facts and their consequences which may have a bearing on the security of the plant reactor and to establish the appropriate corrective measures.

So far there have been no events which could warrant the use of Law No 6189, Article 7, paragraph 3, which allows CNEN to discontinue the construction or operation of any nuclear installation whenever there is danger of a radioactive leak. On the contrary, the harmony between Furnas--which is responsible for the conventional security and the construction of the plant--and CNEN--which is the license-granting body in charge of nuclear security--allows us to believe that the successive stages will be carried out in line with the international procedures which CNEN insists must be followed.

With relation to the physical security of the installation, CNEN's resolution No 03/77, based on recent IAEA recommendations, establishes the general principles and basic requirements for the physical protection of nuclear installations and material.

It is therefore normal that there should be provisions for a support force which is usually "a public security or national security force with jurisdiction over the area in question. This force could be the civilian police, the military police or the federal armed forces." This force has no jurisdiction over internal administrative problems which may appear at the site of the project, but, as its name indicates, must render assistance in matters related to the security of the installations.

OFFICIALS, COMPANIES REBUT NUCLEAR PROGRAM CRITICISM

Minister Rejects Professor's Remarks

PL170302Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 78 p 25 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki stated yesterday that the defects observed in the Angra 1 nuclear plant can in no way be compared with the explosion of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, thus rejecting a comparison made this week by Prof Jose Goldemberg, of Sao Paulo university.

In a direct reply to Goldenberg's criticism that "the government does not seem to have become aware of how serious a nuclear accident can be," Minister Ueki said, using a quote from Seneca, that the government intends to carry on its nuclear program. He also said that he does not know what could be behind criticism and reports of this nature but noted that the government will be closely watching this kind of criticism, which is usually groundless.

In a lecture given at the auditorium of the National Petroleum Council to more than 100 persons, including state traffic and security secretaries and state military police commanders, Ueki said that his ministry does not want to continue discussing the report published by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on irregularities at Angra Dos Reis.

Ueki said: We do not want to start issuing denial after denial because that would inevitably have sensational effects which would damage the country's interests and favor only the biased interests of a few.

Itamaraty Disputes Netherlands Deputy

PY170214Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 78 p 25 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Itamaraty Spokesman Luiz Felipe Lampreia yesterday rejected the doubts cast by Netherlands Deputy Leo Jansen on Brazil's ability to build and operate reactors. Jansen expressed his doubts the day before yesteday in the Netherlands parliament in view of reports of a lack of safety at the Angra Dos Reis work area.

In a forthright tone, Lampreia said that Deputy Jansen, of the Radical Democratic Pary "has been characterized by his malicious attitude toward Brazil." He charged Jansen with "taking advantage, in some ways, of a question which is being rationally treated in Brazil by introducing an emotional element with the clear purpose of stimulating an anti-Brazilian position he himself has been systematically following."

Lampreia reported that Jansen's speech was the only reaction received thus far by Itamaraty to the reports on a lack of safety at Angra Dos Reis.

NUCLEBRAS Denies Allegations

PY170252Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 78 p 25 PY

[Communique issued by the Brazilian Nuclear Corporations--NUCLEBRAS--on 15 March]

[Text] Regarding reports published by the newspapers O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and TRIBUNA DA IMPRENSA on 14 March regarding a meeting which was allegedly held by the NUCLEBRAS president with a group of engineers of the Angra 1 project to persuade them to sign documents attesting to the safety of that plant, we wish to make clear the following:

NUCLEBRAS is completely unaware of the facts mentioned in the reports of O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and TRIBUNA DA IMPRENSA.

The NUCLEBRAS president did not meet, either individually or collectively, with any engineer or group of engineers who are working at the Angra 1 project.

Angra 1 is a project placed under Furnas' exclusive responsibility, while NUCLEBRAS and its subsidiaries do not have any participation in this project.

The reports on the alleged meeting are completely groundless. Thus, the NUCLEBRAS president did not deliver any document on Angra 1 safety to anyone. This procedure would have been grossly inappropriate since the subject exclusively concerns Furnas and the National Nuclear Energy Commission, which are entities of vast experience and responsibility.

FRG Firm Responds

PY162136Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 17 PY

[By William Waack]

[Text] Bonn-Kraftwerk Union [KWU] does not see any reason to believe that pressure may be intensified on the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement as a result of the disclosure of errors and irresponsibility in the Angra 1 reactor, which was purchased from Westinghouse What happenend to the U.S. reactor is, however, viewed as an example by the Germans: "We believe that more effective and rigid control of the personnel having access to the work area of the various reactors will help avoid similar cases," a high KWU source said. Through a spokesman, KWU made clear that physical safety of the construction does not fall under its responsibility.

He said: "As is known, we are not selling any black box to Brazil. A major part of the construction will be carried out by Brazilian firms." He added, however, that the KWU "inspects and controls its construction projects everywhere to see that they meet its safety standards." The spokesman said that KWU enjoys good sales primarily because of "the high safety level of our reactors, which are thus much more expensive than the U.S. reactors."

A KWU expert believes that the number of workers in the Angra 1 plant is excessive (10,000). The German standards will require only a fifth of this number. In Brazil, the low cost of labor makes it possible to replace hoists and special imported equipment with additional men. Yet, it is believed that Angra 2 and 3 will have from 3,000 to 4,000 workers at most during the stage of installation of equipment. There are now 800 persons working on the foundations of these plants.

German nuclear industry sources have noted that "the idea of hiring so many people in the project is a notorious practice which was inherited from the construction of hydroelectric plants." They added: "This naturally increases security risks." After visiting the Westinghouse plant in Angra, KWU experts immediately noted that the plant was "overstaffed," that is, there were workers who were not needed in the plant. They added: "But this, and the safety of the premises and installations is a problem concerning the buyer of a reactor." They noted that "in Germany, we are responsible even for the recruitment and selection of watchmen, but we obviously cannot do this in Brazil.

There was a rather curious reaction in Bonn to the suggestion that sabotage--if there was any--at Angra 1 could have been motivated by German interests. "Sometimes I wish we were as dangerous as others claim we are," an FRG Government official said wryly. This theory caused people to laugh in FRG industrial sectors but also elicited some sort of rejection: What would we gain by delaying the Angra 1 project?" an expert asked. The same source added that although theoretically the KWU and Westinghouse work areas are clearly demarcated, those responsible for Angra 2 and 3 (of KWU) will have greater space for their operations if Westinghouse completes its work and withdraws from the area. A German expert said: "among other things, we are afraid of industrial espionage."

KWU sources believe that there is only a slim chance for a broad reaction by the German public to the facts recently released in Brazil. A KWU expert said: "As far as we know, the October fire affected only nonconventional parts and did not cause any far-reaching damage which could endanger the enviroment." This expert admits, however, that there could be cause "yet" for this kind of danger.

Anyway, the political risks for the FRG nuclear industry have been minimized: The conflict between employers and unions of the graphics industry will prevent the circulation of newspapers and magazines in the FRG today.

Questioned on the safety matter, Hans Friedrich Meyer, the spokesman of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], said in Vienna: "There is absolutely nothing we can do about this." He added: "Our job is merely that of giving advice and instructions on the best ways of guaranteeing the safety of nuclear installations."

In this regard, the IAEA has prepared a list of safety measures which are annually adjusted to the latest innovations and modifications in nuclear technology. The objective is to establish a convention on protection of nuclear material and installations, since no convention has yet been signed in this respect. Consultations are being made within the framework of a work group in which 40 countries are represented. This group will hold its next meeting next month in Vienna.

"Apart from this, however, there is nothing we can do," the IAEA spokesman said. "If the case were extremely serious, the IAEA could send a commission to the country involved to examine the situation but this can only be done if the IAEA is invited by that country."

Ueki Denies Coercion

PY161942Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 15 Mar 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpts] Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki considered "extremely serious" the accusation published yesterday in O ESTADO that six NUCLEBRAS engineers had been forced by the president of that company to sign a certificate attesting to the safety of the Angra Dos Reis nuclear plant. The minister tried unsuccesfully yesterday to find out the truth by calling NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista, who is in London. The minister said that he stayed up until 2000 in his office to find out the facts from NUCLEBRAS, but pointed out that the O ESTADO report did not give names of the engineer specialist in nuclear constructions who were interrogated at the Social and Political Police Department (DDPS) in Rio on 6 March. According to the minister, DPPS Chief Brito Pereira denied by phone that the engineers had been interrogated there.

Ueki said that the DPPS delegate told the director of the ministry's internal security division that no written record of the engineers' statements was available there. The minister also said that Delegate Brito Pereira will make a statement to the press today denying all that was reported by O ESTADO.

The minister gave assurances that the O ESTADO report "will receive all the necessary attention and that all the facts will be brought to light, no matter who gets hurt," but "from the information contained in the report," the accusation seems unfounded, "first it is strange for the NUCLEBRAS president to have requested an engineers' certificate on the safety of the reactor. Second, NUCLEBRAS has no direct responsibility over the construction of Angra 1," Ueki commented.

COURT SUBMITS REPORT ON LETELIER CASE TO GOVERNMENT

PY161358Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Judge Juana Gonzalez has reported that she has submitted an official confidential report to the Interior Ministry concerning the request submitted by the U.S. courts to investigate the alleged involvement of two alleged Chilean citizens in the assassination of Orlando Letelier. The judge did not disclose the content of this document, noting that it was a secret document.

Regarding the official confidential report which was sent to the Defense Ministry a week ago, Judge Juana Gonzalez stated that she had already received an answer but declined to give more details.

After holding a meeting with the judge, the proxy who was specially appointed by the United States, to the case stated that the Defense Ministry's answer to the official confidential report states that Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara are not members of the Chilean Armed Forces.

Etcheverry [the proxy] also noted that he had requested three proceedings related to the U.S. request. One of them was submitted to the Foreign Relations Ministry, another to the international police, and the third request was submitted to a party which, he said, he was unable to disclose. Etcheverry noted that he had submitted to Judge Juana Gonzalez some relatively new and fairly important references related to the case and added that the proceedings he requested would possibly result in the interrogation of some people. Etcheverry added that the investigations which have been carried out so far disclose that Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara had traveled to the United States before Letelier's assassination but that their true identities are still unknown. He noted that the U.S. Government wishes the Chilean Government to offer maximum cooperation and effort to establish the true identity of the two persons who used the official passports. Etcheverry added that he believes that all persons who have been mentioned by the press for their involvement in the Letelier case must be questioned.

DEFENSE MINISTER BRADY TO MEET PERUVIAN COUNTERPART

PY161856Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Chilean Defense Minister Hermann Brady will hold a meeting this weekend with his Peruvian colleague. Maj Gen Hermann Brady Roche leaves for Arica this weekend. Official Defense Ministry sources have reported that the minister will hold meetings in Arica and Tacna with Peruvian War Minister Oscar Molina. These sources added that the two ministers will meet in Tacna to discuss subjects and issues related to their respective ministries and bilateral relations.

Later the ministers will go to Arica where General Brady will host a luncheon in honor of his Peruvian colleague.

General Brady is scheduled to return to Santiago on Monday.

LOPEZ EXPRESSES PLEASURE AT CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION VOTE

PA1702302Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0059 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 16 Mar (EFE)--Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen expressed pleasure today at the ratification of the first U.S.-Panamanian treaty on the canal despite some of the "underhanded tactics" used by treaty opposers against Panamanian Government Chief Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera. Lopez Michelsen spoke over "TV Sucesos," a program directed by newsman Alberto Acosta, on the continued support his government and Colombia have given Panama, saying the accord met with "a series of obstacles of different types."

The Colombian chief executive said that the use of underhanded tactics "is a question which, by the way, has had serious repercussions in Latin America of an extent that the United States does not realize."

Lopez Michelsen added: "Every time they have a problem they try to connect it with drugs. If it is a question of the Panama Canal, it is a drug problem. If it is a question of discrediting a government leader like Fidel Castro, it turns out that he is connected with the drug problem. Of the president of Peru, they have rashly said that his niece is connected with the drug problem."

He also said that Colombia is facing problems in connection with the "accusations floating around" that officials and personalities in Colombian politics are connected with the drug problem." Lopez Michelsen pointed out that his country, Colombia, and Costa Rica "headed the struggle for Panama to recover the Canal Zone, a zone which is part of its territory where it would have sovereignty and jurisdiction." He noted that "thanks to those steps" and the understanding attitude of the United States, "the Canal Zone will become part of the Republic of Panama again," and Panama will not be "split, divided by a foreign strip from then on."

He also discussed Colombia's rights in the canal and said that thanks to the action and policy carried out, "these rights will be respected by Panama in compliance with the statement we signed in Contadora with General Torrijos and in the presence of President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela and Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica."

He added: "As a result, Colombia will lose nothing when the Canal Zone becomes Panamanian and, on the contrary, will have the advantage of dealing with a fraternal country instead of with a power--friendly, it is true--of the size of the United States."

Lopez Michelsen noted that his country and government played "a relatively important role in the drafting of the treaty," which Panamanian authorities themselves admit. He pointed out: "For example, the fact that there are two treaties--one on the return of the zone and the other on military matters in Panama--is based on talks held almost 2 years ago between Colombian Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano Aguirre and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger."

He emphasized that the entire hemisphere is interested in the free transit of the canal but Colombia and Costa Rica especially so.

"It was with our participation that the formula was reached that the canal would be neutral and that neutrality would be guaranteed by a nation with the greatest economic and military capacity, a capacity to guarantee neutrality on a worldwide level, such as the United States."

Lopez Michelsen ended by saying that all of Colombia has been interested in Panama's struggle for the recovery of the canal and its zone.

Criticizes Some Congressional Tactics

PA162125Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today criticized the conduct of some U.S. congressional leaders for using what he termed underhanded tactics in the debates on the Panama Canal. He defended Gen Omar Torrijos' honesty and that of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro and other statesmen of the continent who have taken stands on the U.S.-Panama controversy over the Canal Zone and the Panama Canal.

In statements to this newscast at noon today regarding the voting in the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaties permitting Panama to recover full sovereignty over the canal, Lopez Michelsen said some U.S. leaders used all kinds of underhanded tactics such as accusing General Torrijos of trafficking in drugs. Recently these tactics involved Fidel Castro and the president of Peru and several other Latin American leaders, including officials of the Colombian Government, all with the purpose of preventing ratification of the treaties by the U.S. Senate.

One may differ ideologically with Fidel Castro, but every time the United States is in trouble, it points to Castro to blame him for something, Lopez Michelsen said.

CONTINUED VIOLENCE REPORTED IN TUQUERRES MUNICIPALITY

PA151956Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Pasto, Colombia--New disturbances have taken place in Tuquerres Municipality, where a civic strike has been held since Monday to protest increases in public utility rates. The situation in Tuquerres became tense last night after the installations of the Agricultural-Cattle Marketing Institute [IDEMA] and other government bodies were stoned and several passersby injured during demonstrations.

Mayor Gloria de Noguera resigned from her post but at noon local authorites had not yet replaced her. Police and army contingents arrived in the municipality this morning to help guarantee public order. Losses have been estimated at several million pesos. In addition, approximately 150 persons are being held at the police station until their legal status is defined. Great tension could be observed among the townsfolk even though the situation was normal.

A government commission arrived early today in Tuquerres to try to solve the chaotic situation and to explain the reasons for the increase in public utility rates.

REACTION TO ANNOUNCED POLITICAL AMNESTY REPORTED

PA170150Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1250 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Mar (LATIN)--The military government has announced here that deported political and labor leaders are officially authorized to return to the country as of today. It has been estimated that there about 20 exiles authorized by the regime yesterday to participate in the 4 June elections to elect the 100 members of the Constituent Assembly.

A few hours after the political amnesty was announced, about 1,000 persons went out into the streets to demand a labor amnesty. Four persons were arrested, including Jose Castro Navarro, general coordinator of the Peruvian Permanent Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights. The group of demonstrators included relatives of the hunger strikers, workers dismissed 8 months ago and a number of assembly officials.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 municipal employees continue on strike. Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros announced yesterday that their leaders have been threatened with imprisonment.

Last night's demonstration took place in downtown Lima, from the 2 de Mayo Plaza to the Nicolas de Pierola Avenue and Jiron de la Union, some 500 meters from the government palace. The group stopped in front of the buildings of the newspapers LA PRENSA and EL COMERCIO to demand that they write about the need for a labor amnesty and for a solution to the hunger strike for the rehiring of some 2,000 workers dismissed on 19 July when a "general strike" was held.

In a news conference held at the Jorge Chavez international airport, Cisneros said that the labor problem is different from the political problem and, therefore, "we have not deemed a labor amnesty advisable." Regarding political amnesty, the official communique states that the "government plan" is being fulfilled. Cisneros later affirmed that the decision had not been made under pressure from a hunger strike being staged by some 100 workers or because of the "general strike" held on 27 and 28 February.

According to the document, "the revolutionary government has decided to render ineffective those provisions that might prevent the return to the country of those Peruvians who are abroad." It adds that the measure "is motivated by the desire to provide the electoral process...with the broadest opening and facilities so they may be held autonomously and with the full participation of the people."

Peasant leader Hugo Blanco and lawyer Alberto Ruiz Eldredge, who have been accused by the government of heading paramilitary organizations, are among those benefitted by the amnesty. Gens Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa and Arturo Valdez, vice Adm Jorge Dellepiani Ocampo and Navy Capt Manuel Benza will also benefit from it.

According to Minister Cisneros, the persons benefitted by the amnesty were deported by decision of the armed forces "for attempts against our institutional unity."

Others who have been authorized to return are Victor Cuadros and Julian Sierra, labor leaders at the mining centers and metallurgical complexes, who were accused of being "labor union agitators" along with lawyers Ricardo Diaz Chavez, Jose Ona Meono and Camilo Malqui, who are also exiles.

The exiled military officers, highly influential during late President Juan Velasco Alvarado's administration (1968-1975), created the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR), which is composed of the civilians and military who wielded power in those days. Certain political observers regard this political amnesty as a victory of President Francisco Morales Bermudez over a sector that opposed the measure.

Interior Minister's Remarks

PA161756Y Buenos Aires · LATIN in Spanish 2313 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 Mar (LATIN)--Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros said here that the political amnesty granted by the military government today was part of a planned time-table of activities and is not the result of pressure in the form of work stoppages and hunger strikes.

The general added that the government headed by Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez "does not consider it convenient" at the moment to decree a labor amnesty, which the labor unions have also demanded. Cisneros said that the government "plans" to facilitate the return of persons who are legally barred from returning to the country in order to allow "all Peruvians" to participate in the elections for a Constituent Assembly.

Cisneros, who held a news conference at Jorge Chavez international airport, said also that "everything is normal at the government level." He added that at no time was he presented his resignation from the cabinet as was reported by certain independent magazines and socialized newspapers.

In answer to a question, the minister said: "There are no political prisoners and there are certainly no political deportees."

"Some persons have been deported for being labor agitators and for attempting to promote terrorism, while others have been deported for seeking to undermine the institutional unity of the armed forces," Cisneros added.

He explained that the military high command decided in January 1977 to deport army Generals Loenidas Rodriguez Figueroa and Arturo Valdez, Vice Adm Jorge Dellepiani Ocampo and Navy Captain Manuel Benza. All these officers, who are presently retired, had positions of great influence during the administration of late President Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado (1968 to 1975).

According to the minister, at present some 10 labor leaders are under arrest for disturbing the peace during the "national strike" of 27 and 28 February, which was carried out at the order of the communist-dominated General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP). He said that before the strike there had been 7 politicians in custody, 15 in the course of trial, and 3 or 4 under investigation.

One of the most prominent politicians in custody, and who is presently on a hunger strike, is Communist leader Fernando Gonzalez Gasco, who participated in guerrilla activities in 1964 when the instigator of those activities, Jose de la Puente Uceda, was killed.

The minister said that the government's authorization for the exiles to return "completely discredits the charges made by certain politicians to the effect that there is an intent to commit fraud."

The Peruvian APRIST Party, the Popular Action Party and the Socialist Revolutionary Party had charged that there was an "intention to commit fraud" when leaders in exile had been banned from participation in the elections scheduled for 4 June.

FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE CALLS FOR UNITY

PA161834Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 10 Mar 78 p 2 PA

[Text] Former President Fernando Belaunde Terry said yesterday that Peru must be united in order to defend its national integrity and that, regarding Ecuador's Amazonian claims, Peru does not hold any land that has not always belonged to it.

"Peru does not have a square centimeter of land that has not always belonged to it, that does not belong to the country according to our traditions and to legal precedents in our history," the former president said.

"Consequently," he added, "the country must be firm and united in everything relating to the defense of our national integrity."

Belaunde referred to the subject after returning from the United States to head the Popular Action Front. He will be in Lima for 2 weeks.

Concerning the elections for an assembly to draft the new constitution, Belaunde accused it of being "centralized, dispersionist and dilatory."

He went on to explain that "it is centralized because the Lima electorate (approximately half of the 5 million citizens) is going to be the determining factor (in the elections)."

"It is dispersionist because the distribution figure has been applied to a single list (of 100 members) and dilatory because it postpones the formation of a new government, which is what the country wants and needs," he noted.

On the other hand, he gave full support to the return to the country of those who have been deported "since there can be no honest elections with people in exile."

HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATION RETURNS FROM GENEVA

PY161503Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Uruguayan delegation which attended the Geneva meeting of the International Human Rights Commission has returned home. The head of the Uruguayan delegation, (Carlos Yambruno), met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira to brief him on the results of the meeting.

Within a few hours, Doctor (Yambruno) and the foreign minister will meet with other government officials. Although Doctor (Yambruno) declined to give details, he told Radio Carve that the meeting went very satisfactorily.

ROVIRA DECLINES COMMENT ON OAS RIGHTS REPORT

PY110244Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Uruguay has not yet received the report prepared by the OAS Human Rights Commission on the situation in our country, Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira stated in Treinta Tres. Rovira added that, even though he had learned about the report unofficially, he was not in a position to give his opinion at the moment.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES OIL EXPLORATION PLANS

PY140048Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Text] It is estimated the drilling in the search for hydrocarbons in the Santa Lucia River Basin will begin in the second week of April. This was stated to [Radio] El Espectador by the president of the National Fuels, Alcohol and Cement Administration, Gen Jorge Borad, when asked about the status of the work in that area.

[begin Borad recording] The projects in the Santa Lucia River Basin continue normally, that is, they are following the established schedule. There has only been a slight delay of 2 weeks because of replacement parts which did not arrive in time. However, this has now been solved. All the contracts with the Argentine Government Oil Deposits [YPF] in the agreement have been approved. They will support us in the technological field during the drilling and laboratory and geochemical analyses. YPF personnel will also come to operate the machines and will form the squad which will work there, since we do not have personnel trained in this type of work. You should recall that the machines we have are of the rotary type, and have not been used for 20 years. Their overhauling has taken some time, by the way.

[Question] General Borad, is there a specific deadline for the results?

[Borad] Well, that depends on the speed of the drilling. Actually, we expect to begin in April. [words indistinct] We expect to transfer the equipment and begin drilling during the second half of April. I cannot tell you the exact date. [end recording]

MARIO SOARES ARRIVES WITH SOCIALIST DELEGATION

FL162135Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2113 GMT 16 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares has arrived in Mexico accompanied by a large Socialist International delegation. Soares was welcomed at Benito Juarez airport by Carlos Sansores, leader of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), deputies, senators, and Mexican labor and peasant leaders.

It was announced that a press conference would be held at the airport, but it did not take place. Soares briefly answered questions from a large number of reporters who had gathered at the airport, stating that "great concurrences" exist between the Socialist International and the Mexican PRI.

SENATOR URGES MEASURES AGAINST DEPENDENCE ON UNITED STATES

PA142002Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Mar (EFE)--Mexican Senator Adolfo de la Huerta Oriol has accused the United States of "economically strangling Mexico in order to take possession of it." The senator said that the excessive U.S. concession of loans to Mexico already exceeds Mexico's payment capacity and endangers national sovereignty. He said that U.S. pressures on Mexico to sell its natural gas at a low price are part of the many U.S. maneuvers to keep Mexico dependent on the United States.

The senator said that Mexico's indebtedness to the United States has in many cases not realized its objective of improving the standard of living of a large number of people who remain excluded. He said that adequate measures should be taken so that Mexican capital will actively participate in the country's economic development. He added that this would be one of the most positive measures for achieving Mexico's independence from the United States.

ADVOCACY OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IN UN TONED DOWN

PA110438Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In the United Nations, Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo's administration has given up its attempts to place Mexico at the head of the movement for a new international economic order and will limit itself to a much more moderate attitude within the realm of the medium-level powers, diplomatic sources have reported.

Mexico's new economic policy with regard to the Third World, the sources say, bears the traditional mark of the country. [words indistinct] what some Lopez-Portillo administration officials view as pernicious rhetoric against the industrialist powers, the sources which asked not to be identified added.

The construction of a new international economic order was jointly promoted by the administration preceeding Lopez-Portillo, the Luis Echeverria Alvarez administration, and the Venezuelan administration of Carlos Andres Perez.

Between 1974 and 1976, Echeverria and Perez strongly advocated at several international forums [words indistinct] reorganization of international economic relations, including a readjustment in international trade to protect the prices of raw materials and to check the rising costs of exports from the western (?industrial) countries.

ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST AGRARIAN REFORM

PA140112Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 12 Mar 78 PA

[By Ruben C. Jauregui]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 12 Mar (AFP)--Mexican entrepreneurs have just launched a campaign aimed at the virtual elimination of agrarian reform and the establishment of a predominantly private rural production system. In what observers feel is the strongest assault suffered by agrarian reform since its beginning in 1915, the investors openly demanded a "radical change" in the principles that have applied to the countryside for over 60 years.

The principles refer essentially to landholding patterns, which include the ejidos--production units divided into plots--cooperative land holdings and small private holdings.

The investors launched their offensive during a congress of the Entrepreneurial Federation--which elected a wealthy rancher from the northeast as its leader--with the demand that the land distribution phase, the basis of the agrarian reform, be definitively scrapped.

According to estimates, there are some 3 million peasants now awaiting a decision on their requests for land despite the fact that land distribution began practically in 1915, when revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata promulgated the country's first agrarian reform law.

According to the entrepreneurs, the solution to the production problem arising from the explosive growth in population, now calculated at 3.5 percent, does not lie in the distribution of land but on a greater presence of entrepreneurs in the countryside and the consequent placement of agriculture in private hands.

Strictly speaking, the entrepreneurs' proposal is their response to the appeal made by the government for investments in the countryside in order to promote agriculture.

According to analysts, the investors have made it clear through their answer that they will only heed the appeal if guarantees which they regard as necessary are established in the rural areas.

Inefficiency in agriculture has been generally attributed to the existence of poverty-ridden small landholders who have lands but lack credit, seed and advice on agriculture.

The present government feels that the solution lies, not exactly in the distribution of land but in the creation of large production units in which ejido owners, cooperative farmers, small land owners and even state agencies would participate as associates.

However, the entrepreneurs have a different idea. They think of large-scale cultivation in which labor-management relations would be regulated by the labor code.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA170455Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0431 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text of Panamanian Foreign Ministry communique issued on U.S. Senate's ratification of neutrality treaty--read by announcer]

[Text] On the occasion of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the Panamanian Government, in order to fulfill Article 274 of the national Constitution, fully explained to the people the scope of those instruments. After a debate in which the supporters and opponents of the treaties very freely expressed their viewpoints, the Panamanian people gave their approval to the negotiations which resulted in the treaties signed in Washington, D.C. on 7 September last year in the presence of the leaders of the American continent.

In an open and exemplary demonstration of democracy, the U.S. Senate has intensely debated these treaties and given its approval to the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal. In so doing, it introduced some conditions or understandings to clarify, in its opinion, the true meaning of those instruments.

Since the Panamanian people gave their acceptance to two treaties, that is to say, the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal treaty, the government feels it advisable not to issue a judgment on the Senate decision regarding the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal and wait until the Senate makes a decision on the Panama Canal treaty.

Once this occurs, an evaluation will be made of the understandings to determine whether the popular will expressed in the plebiscite has been distorted. The patriotic decision of the Panamanian people was based on two treaties and as long as one of the treaties is pending a Senate decision, the United States will not have given a definite answer to the process of decolonization agreed upon with Panama in the two treaties.

This explains the decision of the Panamanian Government, led by General Torrijos and under the presidency of engineer Lakas, of not making any statement on the various clarifications which the U.S. Senate has made or may make to the treaties until we have the official texts of those clarifications to both treaties.

Once we have those documents in our posession, we will study them through [several] and will inform the people of the conclusions reached in line with our constitutional law and public international law.

In the meantime, we advise the Panamanian people to be calm. We have chosen negotiations as the means of liberation, as one of the effective instruments in attaining our decolonization, perfecting our independence and recovering the canal in order to make of it the proper instrument of our social and economic development.

Let us trust that the final result of the negotiations process which will be completed with the exchange of the ratification instruments in Panama City will meet our principal demands on a firm basis of national dignity, respect for our right to self-determination and our territorial integrity.

[signed] Panamanian Foreign Ministry

BETHANCOURT ADDRESSES NATION ON NEUTRALITY TREATY

PA162207Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2135 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Message by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, adviser to Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, to the people of Panama and Central America nations--live]

[Text] Good afternoon. In effect, once the vote ratifying the neutrality treaty was over in the U.S. Senate, we, in our capacity as personal adviser to the chief of government, chose to address the people to inform them of certain facts related to the debates in the U.S. Senate, our chief of government's position and the attitude of the revolutionary government toward these problems.

First of all, we would like to inform the public that yesterday President Carter sent General Torrijos a letter which General Torrijos answered. Yesterday President Carter also called General Torrijos. They discussed the problems related to the debates in the U.S. Senate. President Carter's letter to General Torrijos says:

My Esteemed General: As you know, the Senate is reaching the end of its debate on the neutrality treaty. Although we expect the final vote to be close, we continue to be confident about the outcome. We have advanced a lot since September when we signed the treaties. The Senate's Foreign Relations Committee approved the treaties by an overwhelming majority. In the debate in the Senate we have luckily been able to forestall any amendment to the treaty other than the so-called leadership amendments to Articles 4 and 6. These include the exact terms of the memorandum of understanding published following our conversation of 14 October.

When considering its resolution to ratify the treaty, the Senate--I am almost completely certain--will add a number of reservations, conditions, or understandings that reflect some of their concerns. We have made all possible efforts and to date have been successful in keeping these in agreement with the general purposes of our two countries as parties in the treaties. I hope you will study them from this viewpoint.

After approving the neutrality treaty the Senate will immediately begin to consider the main treaty on the Panama Canal. Although problems will arise, I trust that the outcome will once again be favourable and that the two treaties, together, will achieve for our countries the benefits we conceived when we signed them in September.

I know that the prolonged public discussion of the treaties in the United States has created difficulties for you and your country. It has been necessary, however, to inform the American public of the reasons why the treaties were negotiated and the benefits they offer both parties. We have advanced noticeably in this direction. Therefore, as things stand at the moment, we are coming close to an important milestone. If we all continue to work patiently and constructively to achieve our objectives, I think we will obtain the result we both desire: reasonable and equitable treaties of mutual interests. Very truly yours, Jimmy Carter.

Yesterday General Torrijos answered President Carter as follows:

Your Excellency Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America. Esteemed President Carter: In your letter of today, as well as in the conversation we held this afternoon, you expressed, among other things, your hope of a positive vote in the U.S. Senate regarding the neutrality treaty.

I understand and have perceived the great efforts which you, as chief of a great nation, as well as numerous important senators have made to create an awareness in the rest of the Senate and the American people regarding the need for a new relationship between Panama and the United States. After intense and difficult negotiations we signed the corresponding treaties in Washington. Subsequently, and because of confusion which arose regarding two articles of the neutrality treaty, we proceeded to issue a memorandum of understanding which clearly interpreted the unilateral capacity of each of our two countries to maintain the regime of neutrality against threats and attacks against, or closure of, the canal, the priority transit of warships in case of an emergency and the noninterference in Panama's domestic affairs as well as respect for territorial integrity and the country's political independence.

In this spirit we drafted balanced and equitable treaties which have received the support of practically all the world's nations. In your letter, and personally, you informed me that the Senate will include some reservations but that they will not change or affect the contents of the neutrality treaty nor our statement of 14 October 1977.

In this respect I would like to inform you that the Panamanian Government will carefully study these reservations and will define its attitude once the Senate has voted on the two treaties. This is the case because during the plebiscite held in Panama the people voted for the two treaties jointly and not separately.

However, I would like to note that the analysis will be based on the following concepts: Panama will find unacceptable any reservation offending our national dignity, changing the treaties' objectives or tending to prevent Panama's somevereignty over all of its territory, the turning over of the canal to Panama and military withdrawal prior to 31 December 1999.

This is why I greatly appreciate your assurances that these objectives will not be changed in the least by amendments or reservations. This reaffirms my opinion regarding your high moral standing and integrity as a president and as a person.

The Panamanian people will not accept words, wrongly placed commas, or uncertain phrases suggesting or expressing a perpetual occupation disguised as neutrality or intervention in its domestic affairs.

President Carter, we both know the problems we must face in order to create a new attitude in our two countries, but your words reveal the intimate truths of a man of great integrity. We believe that the North American people elected you precisely because of this trait. This is why, with the frankness typical of our relations, I say to you that the treaty problems must be confronted with courage and truth.

Your great capacity for conviction will necessarily reach the honest and upstanding men in your Senate. In your country this has been amply proven by men who never thought that arrogance or threats were rules of conduct for the United States in its dealings with its own people and relations with other countries. That is why Lincoln, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Kennedy and other great U.S. Presidents hold a place in U.S. history and inspire other nations in the world. It is obvious that not only Panama but the whole world anxiously awaits the Senate's decision tomorrow. The canal as an international public service is of interest to all mankind. That is why we see in the treaties we have signed the peaceful solution that will guarantee all users access to the canal on an equal basis.

Panama has made a great sacrifice, waiting 22 long years to attain its decolonization. We have shown our maturity and unselfishness. We are confident that the Senate will not disappoint the world.

I hereby on this occasion express my greatest esteem. Omar Torrijos Herrera, chief of government of the Republic of Panama.

These two letters, exchanged between the chiefs of government of the United States and Panama, reveal the situation being experienced in the United States, and specifically in the U.S. Senate, in connection with the discussions and the approval today of the neutrality treaty.

We also want to make the announcement that our chief of government has called a meeting of the revolutionary government which will also be attended by our ambassador to the United States, Gabriel Lewis, who will come from the United States, to evaluate the amendments introduced to the treaty and to evaluate the reservations and understandings introduced to the resolution ratifying the neutrality treaty.

In this respect, it would be well to make the following matter very clear. Two amendments were added to the neutrality treaty. One of them to Article 4 and the other to Article 6. These two amendments literally consist of the joint declaration issued by President Carter and General Torrijos on October prior to the plebiscite in Panama.

This joint declaration, as all Panamanians know, specifically defined the interpretation of Articles 4 and 6 in the following manner: It was said that in fact and in accordance with the neutrality treaty, Panama and the United States had the unilateral right to act for the purpose of maintaining the regime of neutrality and preventing attacks, threats or closings of the Panama Canal.

This same joint declaration also stated that this did not in any way mean U.S. intervention in Panama's domestic affairs and that any action related to attacks on, threats against, or closure of the canal would never be directed against Panama's political independence or territorial integrity.

This part of the joint declaration issued by President Carter and General Torrijos was incorporated by the Senate into Article 4 of the neutrality treaty.

The other part of the declaration indicates that the warships of both nations have the right of expeditious transit through the canal, that the right of expeditious transit meant a prompt transit, free of hindrances, and--specifically in cases of emergency--the right to go to the head of the line of the ships transmitting the canal in order to cross the canal as soon as possible. This last part of the Torrijos-Carter declaration was incorporated into Article 6 of the neutrality treaty.

The other amendments presented in the Senate, as you know in listening to the broadcast, were rejected by the Senate. Subsequently, after the debate on the neutrality treaty was over, the U.S. Senate started discussing the resolution of ratification of that neutrality treaty. In that resolution some reservations and understandings were introduced. What do those reservations and understandings mean?

From a legal viewpoint, those reservations are the position which the Senate adopts regarding specific articles of the neutrality treaty so that, in the exchange of the ratification of the documents approving the treaties between the United States and Panama, those reservations and understandings will be included.

The problem which the Panamanian Government is going to study now is going to study now is if the reservations added to that document contradict the neutrality treaty and its objectives. Some of them, we believe, are reservations unnecessarily added. An example is the one according to which Panama and the United States will be able to negotiate a U.S. military presence in Panama after the year 2000. That is unnecessary because all states of the world have the right to negotiate on any subject at any time they think it proper. It is simply a reservation tacked on by the senators in the belief or conviction that it will necessarily oblige the Republic of Panama to enter into such negotiations.

The Republic of Panama can reject that reservation. The Republic of Panama can accept that reservation. It can start negotiating that possibility in the future, and in that negotiation can reject that military presence or can agree to it.

That is a power which states have when negotiating treaties existing between them or articles of those existing treaties, or new matters not contemplated in any existing treaty.

With that criteria, and according to what General Torrijos told President Carter, Panama will proceed to the study of the reservations and the amendments.

It is very important to point out the methodology which will be used by the Government of the Republic of Panama regarding the study of those amendments and which General Torrijos points out very clearly in the letter he sent President Carter. Consequently, we think that in this way the structure or framework is established by which the Government of the Republic of Panama--the government officials who will participate in that study --will study those reservations and amendments.

I repeat the methodology pointed out by General Torrijos in his letter to President Carter when he says: However, I do want to point out that this study will be based upon the following concepts. Panama will consider unacceptable any reservation which harms national dignity.

That is to say, when the reservations or the understandings added to the neutrality treaty are studied, the first thing which the Government of the Republic of Panama will determine is if any of those reservations or understandings harm or are directed at harming national dignity. Specifically, what does harming national dignity mean? It means, specifically, to fail to respect our state as a state and a nation. It means to fail to respect the Panamanian people. It means to ignore the sovereign character which Panama, like all nations of the world, possesses as an essential attribute of statehood. Then our government, as the first matter, has to analyze if any of those reservations or understandings harm our nation's dignity.

Second, if the objectives of the treaty are distorted or changed, or if Panama is prevented from having effective exercise of sovereignty over all its territory, then, the second point which must be studied by our revolutionary government is whether any of the reservations or any of the understandings introduced to the document ratifying the neutrality treaty are directed at preventing the full exercise of Panama's sovereignty over all its territory, or if they are directed at changing the objectives of the treaty.

Then, we must see, from the standpoint of the Republic of Panama, the treaty's objectives, the fundamental objectives of the Republic of Panama in regard to the treaty, which is so aptly pointed out by General Torrijos in his letter to President Carter. These are, first, the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama over all its territory--that is to say, over the part today called the Canal Zone. If any of the reservations or understandings are directed at Panama's not exercising this jurisdiction over what is called today the Panama Canal Zone. [as heard]

Honestly, we must confess that none of the reservations is directed at preventing the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama over what is called the Canal Zone and which, as you know, according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties, occurs immediately after these treaties are in force and have a period of 30 months for the execution of the full exercise of that jurisdiction. This is to make an orderly, peaceful and correct transfer during those 30 months to the Republic of Panama of what is at present called the Canal Zone.

In the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the other fundamental objective of the Republic of Panama and the fundamental aim of the Panamanian people is the changing of the perpetuity condition included in the 1903 treaty to an established date on which the relationship between the United States and Panama regarding the canal will be terminated and on which the canal will be transferred to the Republic of Panama free of obligations [gravamenes]. The Torrijos-Carter treaties establish that the transfer of the canal to the Republic of Panama will take place on 31 December 1999 at noon, Panama time.

So now our government has to establish if some of the reservations or understandings are aimed at not surrendering the canal to the Republic of Panama on 31 December 1999, at noon. We have to say that the reservations have not changed the date for the transfer of the canal to the Republic of Panama.

Another objective of the treaty is the withdrawal of foreign troops from our territory, in this specific case, of U.S. Army troops. The neutrality treaty also establishes in Article 5 that as of 31 December 1999 the Republic of Panama will be the only party to have troops stationed on its territory. That is, they will not continue insisting on having U.S. troops [in Panama] after 31 December 1999.

Then there is this problem. Now the Government of the Republic of Panama has to study--in line with the call made by Chief of Government General Torrijos for a meeting--whether or not some of the reservations or understandings are aimed at noncompliance with Article 5 of the neutrality pact which stipulates military withdrawal from the isthmus. As you know, this has been a most delicate problem much debated by the U.S. Senate. The formula that they found is that of introducing into the instrument of ratification--not in the treaty itself, but in the instrument of ratification--a reservation allowing the two countries, Panama and the United States to negotiate the U.S. military presence in the Republic of Panama after the year 2000.

Is this in contradiction with Article 5 of the neutrality pact or is it not? That is another of the questions that the revolutionary government has to decide in the study and evaluation of the reservations.

The United States--in this specific case, the U.S. Senate--has used somewhat rustic language--and we could consider it even more rustic coming from a Senate such as the U.S. Senate where many of the legislators, or senators, are attorneys--in some of these reservations, and of course this has created some uneasiness [inquietud], on the one hand, and some confusion, on the other, among our people who wonder whether these reservations are subverting, weakening or eliminating articles of the neutrality treaty.

As members of the government, we have initiated a study of these reservations and we must honestly state that despite the language that has been used, they do not alter the essence [en el fondo] of the neutrality treaty. The neutrality treaty and the Torrijos-Carter declaration clearly state that the United States--unilaterally in line with its constitution--and the Republic of Panama--unilaterally in line with its Constitution--can act independently in case of attack, threat or closing of the canal.

What the reservations introduced to the document of ratification of the treaty do is to point out this very fact but specifically note the military capability [capacidad militar] of the United States to act in the Isthmus of Panama in case of closing of, threat to, or attack on, the canal.

So in principle we can tell the people that the main objectives of Panama regarding the Torrijos-Carter treaties have not been altered by these reservations introduced by the Senate. We can talk in terms of principle only, since the revolutionary government has not carried out a thorough study of this problem yet. In principle and generically speaking, we consider that these reservations are fairly palatable [potable] since they do not affect the essence or contents of the neutrality treaty. Especially, these reservations do not affect the basic elements of the treaties such as the military withdrawal by 31 December 1999.

The revolutionary government and General Torrijos have maintained an eloquent silence throughout this period. Why? Why has the government maintained an eloquent silence? After senators visited our country and later returned to the United States, General Torrijos, displaying considerable good sense, stated that once the U.S. Senate began its deliberations he considered those proceedings as those of a jury. This means that there could be no interference in the discussions of the Senate, and especially no interference from our country since that is not a senate of the Republic of Panama but a senate of another state. Besides, during the debates our people have been hearing daily attacks, slander and insults by some senators against the integrity of our country, against our government, against our chief of government. The country also had the opportunity to hear of the farce that took place in a so-called closed session to indict General Torrijos and his family for possible involvement in drug trafficking. This trial [juicio] was so secret that as soon as it was over what had occurred there was public knowledge and, as you all know, this trial was but a farce because the charges had been bandied about.

Nevertheless, our government maintains, has maintained and will maintain this silence until the U.S. Senate has discussed the two treaties and ends its deliberations. Because, as General Torrijos says in his letter, when the Panamanian people voted in the plebiscite it approved the two treaties together, not separately.

Therefore, distinguished listeners, this is the picture. Our government is now preparing to study the reservations regarding the understandings and, at an opportune moment, will announce its official position regarding these problems. Thank you.

[Broadcast is interrupted for 1 minute after which Escobar Bethancourt is heard to speak again.]

Well, I would like to say farewell to Radio Libertad and I only want to add that we consider, truly, that what has just taken place today at the U.S. Senate is, in reality, a victory for the Panamanian people and a victory for General Torrijos who has had the patience and integrity to withstand all the attacks, insults and slander against what he is doing, which corresponds to our people's aspirations and is directed toward definitely liberating our people from colonialism. Thank you.

WASHINGTON REPORT CRITICIZES SENATE RESERVATIONS

PA170108Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0005 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Special report by Diana Arosemena from Panamanian Embassy in Washington--live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Senate ratified the Panama Canal neutrality treaty at 1630 by a vote of 68 in favor, 32 against. Following 22 days of meeting and more than 170 hours of endless discussions the neutrality treaty was accepted by a very close margin.

Although the treaties do not satisfy all the aspirations of the Panamanian people, they do put them closer to their final objective. The consideration of the modifications to the documents by the U.S. Senate is the sole prerogative of the Panamanian Government and people. The attitude which General Torrijos has assumed as chief of government will not surprise his people, although it may surprise some incredulous senators who may have believed at one time that the problem of Panama could be solved with dollars instead of dignity.

The U.S. Senate's ratification of the neutrality treaty has set a precedent for the next treaty, but it also indicates that the Panama Canal treaty now before the U.S. Senate will be history repeating itself. It is easy to forecast that it will be ratified. But it will not be easy to convince Torrijos or the Panamanian people that to keep the canal operational it is necessary to close hospitals, schools, or to eliminate the schools' nutritional programs. Nor will it be easy to place the Panamanian people in the predicament that in the event free passage through the canal is hampered by an earthquake or a flu epidemic they will have to dig in to defend themselves from an invasion.

The Senate has shown itself so concerned by the possible events in Panama after 1999 that it is surprising that it has not contemplated provisions to defend the canal from an invasion from Mars or a war between the galaxies. The treaty which has just been ratified is the first of two that the two countries agreed upon jointly and which their two presidents signed on 7 September 1977. The U.S. Senate seems to have assume responsibilities not contemplated in the original documents. In the last instance, however, it is up to the Panamanian Government and people to have the last say.

COLUMNIST PROTESTS SENATE'S 'DISTORTION' OF TREATY

PA162041Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Mar 78 pp 4, 26 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez: "What Line Should We Take?"

[Text] Today we got up very early because it is an occasion for well thought-out action. And as you, amiable reader, go over these lines which were written with great concern because the future of the relations between the two countries which signed the canal treaty is being decided by the U.S. Senate, fundamental matters will emerge which we must study with calmness.

The various militant sectors of the Panamanian people will not accept more humiliation. Neither will they accept the systematic distortion of a treaty which was not accepted by all the Panamanian people and which was ratified under protest during the 23 October plebiscite, in a demonstration of a great willingness to sacrifice to achieve the concrete detente which the entire world calls necessary for peace and development.

However, certain senators insist on intolerable "reservations" and "amendments." They are intolerable because the Panamanian people will in no way agree to let U.S. troops return here whenever the U.S. generals and warmonger so desire. We wish to point out that now, more than ever, we must take a position in the vanguard, to face up to the attacks from intransigent members of the U.S. Senate. And as we drafted this article with our mind drenched in sadness--but at the same time full of optimism because of the happiness and valor of the Panamanian people--the news arrived that the Senate has just approved another "reservation" providing for deployment of U.S. troops to Panama if the interoceanic waterway is believed to be threatened. However, it does not say what type of threat is involved or whether or not Panama's consent is required.

This absurd and anachronistic position on the part of the Yankee strategists is a form of distortion of the treaty. And, of course, any amendment or reservation is to us a form of rejecting the agreement. Panama cannot continue to lower its pants so that an entire interventionist army can touch the national patriots' prostates from the rear. [para que todo un ejercito interventor palpe por las posaderas la prostata de los patriotas nacionales].

However, at the same time, we must not permit schisms in national unity. To permit such schisms would be to play the reactionaries' game. Therefore, positions must be taken collectively so as to strengthen the struggle for the benefit of future generations.

We know that the private investment sectors, as well as the working class, the students and the peasants, feel concerned and stricken. Our patience is wearing thin, and now a choice must be made--either to radicalize the struggle or surrender our dignity, our social decorum and our international personality.

Mr Carter is in trouble. As far as we know, optimism is relative, but we continue to be optimistic. The best thing to do now is sit down and meditate and consider how even the very friends of U.S. foreign policy feel sad, crushed and confused because of the Senate's daring distortion [of the treaty].

However, let us not fall into traps skillfully set by our enemies at home and abroad. Let us not take hasty measures because our strategy must be based on cleverness, valor and opportunity.

EL SALVADOR

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

PA161813Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A communique released by the presidency's information secretariat reports on the subversive activities carried out on 12 March during the elections for deputies and municipal councils. Pipes, stones and explosives were placed on the roads leading to Aguilares, San Martin, Quezaltepeque, Tejutepeque, Suchitoto, San Pedro Perulapan and (Finquera). The road surfaces were broken in order to prevent vehicles from reaching those towns.

In Ojos de Agua several telephone lines were cut and the posts to which they had been affixed were knocked down. The same thing happened in Tejetepeque, Jutiapa and (Finquera). At Las Mercedes ranch a terrorist group set fire to a canefield and 30 manzanas were destroyed.

Manuel de Jesus Acosta in Metapan, Miguel Asencio in Acajutla, Bernardo Alejandro Gonzalez Henriquez in Cojutepeque, Juan Jose Calles Ramirez in Apopa and Pedro Garcia Gomez in Mejapa were all captured while trying to set fire to several ballot boxes.

In Cojutepeque a group of unidentified men managed to escape from the authorities after also trying to set fire to ballot boxes.

This is a part of the information available on the subversive activities carried out during the elections Sunday, the bulletin released by the presidency's information secretariat concludes.

FPL Claims Credit

PA170240Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Today the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) claimed responsibility for all the terrorist acts staged throughout El Salvador to boycott the 12 March elections for deputies and mayors. After the usual criticism of the Salvadoran Government and "U.S. imperialism," the extreme leftist group gave an account of its activities before and after the elections, which gave 50 deputy posts and 261 mayoralties to the governing National Conciliation Party (PCN) and only 4 deputies and no mayoralty to the minority ultrarightist Popular Salvadoran Party.

The guerrillas indicate that dozens of houses of mayors, of PCN leaders, of commanders of military patrols and of leaders of the far rightist "Nationalist Democratic Organization" (ORDEN) were stoned in many places. They added that countless speeches had been given and flash meetings held to explain "the electoral maneuver." They also had encounters with security agents, held local demonstrations and set up roadblocks.

Before the elections they detonated a very powerful bomb in the Nicaraguan Consulate in the eastern city of San Miguel, which was done in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

On their part, authorities said they had neutralized the terrorist actions and made it possible for the people to make a large showing at the polls.

GUATEMALA

MLN SUSPENDS DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING ELECTION

PA170237Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1931 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The ultrarightist National Liberation Movement [MLN] of Guatemala today suspended public demonstrations in favor of annuling the elections which were not favorable to it. The demonstrations, which began Saturday, were headed by former presidential and vice presidential candidates Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia and Hector Aragon. At the end of the last demonstration held last night, it was announced that the demonstrations would be suspended "out of respect for the approaching holy week."

HONDURAS

ARMY TO REMAIN ON BORDER WITH NICARAGUA

PA162315Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A Honduran Army company will continue to search for smugglers, armed bands and persons without proper documents along the border with Nicaragua. Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, made this announcement to newsmen and reiterated that "that company is carrying out Operation Veloz to fulfill a constitutional mandate."

The high-ranking Honduran military chief explained once again that "Operation Veloz in no way represents a joint operation with the Nicaraguan National Guard, nor does it seek to protect that country's regime." A few days ago, the Committee of Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua complained here that Operation Veloz is being carried out jointly with Nicaragua to repress the Sandinist guerrillas. The Honduran Army admits that it has captured several armed men inside Honduran territory who later were identified as Sandinists.

According to General Paz Garcia, "those gentlemen have violated our laws and will be tried, but the Foreign Ministry has also been alerted in order to see if they can be deported to some other country." The general did not specify how many Sandinists have been arrested, but he did admit that they are more than four.

Further on, he said that the Honduran Army "is not protecting any regime, only our citizens who were being victimized by armed bands along the border with Nicaragua." He warned that "there are people interested in making believe that our operation is being held jointly with Nicaragua, but I can assure you that such is not the case. Neither has our air force given any support to the Nicaraguan National Guard." General Paz Garcia also affirmed that his troops "have never been on Nicaraguan territory, not even by mistake." Two days ago the Honduran university students federation claimed that Honduran troops had gone into Nicaraguan territory in their search.

Meanwhile, several university student representatives to the chief of state's advisory council have denounced the fact that Honduran citizens Rafael Quinonez was captured by Nicaraguan troops involved in the Operation Veloz. According to student leader Carlos Arita Valdivieso, Quinonez was captured on a farm located near the Nicaraguan border and so far no information has been provided as to his whereabouts. After the denunciation was made, it was learned that Rafael Quinonez is a cousin of Anibal Quinonez, representative of the Supreme Court of Justice before the chief of state's advisory council, who said that he has been taking steps to locate his cousin.

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ SWORN IN AS LABOR SECRETARY

PA162310Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Alejandro Alvarez, new secretary of state for labor and social security, was sworn in at the government house yesterday afternoon by chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro. Alvarez, who had been serving as a higher officer at the ministry, said after being sworn in: As I have promised General Melgar Castro, I will put all my strength and talent into the performance of my duties to the credit of the government of the republic and of myself. He also noted that the probable reform of the labor code and the future establishment of a minimum wage for maids depend on the work of the specialists serving in the Labor Ministry.

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT WITH MEXICO--The Honduran Government has undertaken talks with Mexican officials to find measures that will allow our country to improve the deficit in its balance of trade. Last week Honduran Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Col Roberto Palma Galvez held talks with his Mexican counterpart Santiago Roel on this topic and urged that measures be taken to improve our trade with Mexico. Honduras purchased about 18 million lempiras' worth of Mexican goods last year while Mexico imported from us about 500,000 lempiras' worth of goods. [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

NICARAGUA

SISTER OF REINALDO PEREZ' KILLER SEEKS REFUGE

PA162318Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] Spokesmen for the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported today that they learned that Lidia Astorga, sister of Dr Nora Astorga, whom the authorities have blamed for the killing of Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega, has been granted asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS INCREASE IN MANAGUA

PA161758Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Explosions of homemade bombs have increased in Managua over the past 5 days, alrming citizens and eliciting strict military vigilance. No damage to private property has been reported. Last night in Jinotepe the police dissolved a student demonstration by firing shots into the air.

MINISTRY SOURCES DENY CUBANS EXECUTED IN CABINDA

PA161749Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1712 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 16 March--Official sources here have disclaimed the reliability of the reports on the capture and execution of several Cuban military officers in Cabinda. Several spokesmen of the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front (FLEC) recently affirmed in Lisbon that 130 Cuban soldiers had been imprisoned, while 72 others had been executed.

When asked about this, the Cuban Foreign Ministry sources made fun of the report, suggesting that it had resulted from the "needs of a fund-collecting campaign" by the "so-called FLEC." As far as we know, calm reigns in Cabinda and even the transnational companies are operating there in peace, they affirmed.

SENATE APPROVAL OF TREATY, PANAMANIAN REACTION REPORTED

PA170127Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Today, after 5 weeks of debate, the U.S. Senate ratified the Panama Canal neutrality treaty by 68 votes; 32 senators voted against it.

Panama's Chief of Government Omar Torrijos said that his country will not accept treaty amendments detrimental to Panama's sovereignty and integrity. In a letter read by adviser Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Torrijos said that the amendments and reservations would be analyzed to determine whether they contradict the principles included in the documents approved by the Panamanians in the plebiscite.

A conference of the Panamanian Government has been called and Panama's ambassador to Washington was called home for consultations.

HAVANA ON ISRAELI STRIKE IN LEBANON; PLO OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT

FL160250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpts] With the support of tanks, fighter-bombers and naval units, Israel has launched a force of 25,000 men to occupy southern Lebanon, causing hundreds of victims among the civilian population. Today it faced strong resistance from Palestinian refugees.

While bloody fighting is reported in southern Lebanon and dispatches of several news agencies report that the Israeli Air Force and artillery are attacking civilian communities and destroying housing and nonmilitary installations, North American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today declared in Washington that his government is following the situation closely and wants to see what will happen. Asked by the North American press if the government of President Carter would ask Israel to end its invasion of Lebanon, Vance replied categorically: We have not asked that the invasion be ended. He added: We hope there will not be civilian casualties.

The United States is the principal supplier of arms to Israel and a (?strong) supporter of its aggressive policy and of the artificial economy of the Zionist government. In this regard, TASS says that attention cannot be avoided to the circumstance that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon followed immediately the visit to Washington by Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who asked the Pentagon for weapons worth $13.5 billion.

Meanwhile, Zionist Prime Minister Menahem Begin, recalling his old times as a terrorist of the extreme right, visited his troops who have occupied positions in southern Lebanon. He was accompanied by the defense minister and operations generals. According to political analysts, this confirms the Zionist position of militarily occupying southern Lebanon in an action which compromises peace and security in the region, ignores the basic principles of international law and disregards UN decisions on that zone in conflict.

In connection with these events, we have an exclusive statement for this newscast from Dr ('Isam Salim), chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political mission in Havana:

[begin (Salim) recording] This new Zionist aggression against the Palestine revolution led by the PLO and aimed at the fraternal people of Lebanon and their progressive forces is nothing but another phase in the continuous Zionist, imperialist and reactionary aggression against our Palestinian people which began more than 30 years ago. It must be pointed out that the Zionist aggressors have an enormous arsenal of the most modern and sophisticated weapons furnished by North American imperialism, and this allows them to continue their policy of aggression and genocide against the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the political and moral backing and support which the U.S. Government is giving to the Israeli aggression once more shows the falsehood of its alleged human rights policy. In a word, it is an attempt to impose on the Palestinian and Arab peoples an imperialist and [word indistinct] policy, in other words, an American peace. We will never accept it. We will continue the struggle with the help of our many friends headed by the Soviet Union; the Zionist aggression will surely be defeated. [end recording]

HART PRESIDES AT GRANMA PROVINCE MONUMENT OFFICE OPENING

FL160117Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2303 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Politburo member Armando Hart Davalos, culture minister, has presided over the event establishing the Granma Provincial Monument Commission which was held at the people's government headquarters in the city of Manzanillo. Emilo Loo Hernandez, province party first secretary, and Haydee Santamaria, both members of the Central Committee, as well as Pedro Garcia Lupianez, president of the provincial People's Government Assembly, also attended.

The new institution proposed that the house in Bayamo where Carlos Manuel de Cespedes was born, the Majagua national park Dos Rios where Jose Marti fell, Playa Colorada and the general command headquarters of the rebel army at La Plata be declared national monuments. Leonardo Guevara, member of the provincial bureau and first secretary of the party in Manzanillo, stated that the people of Granma were proud to establish the commission on the day of commemorating the centennial of the protest of Baragua.

BULGARIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER IN SANTIAGO

FL151937Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The delegation headed by Dimitur Stovanov, Bulgarian internal affairs minister and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, has visited various places of historical interest in Santiago de Cuba Province. The Bulgarian delegation arrived in the Santiago capital accompanied by Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of interior.

CUBAN-PORTUGUESE TRADE TALKS HELD IN HAVANA

FL151530Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The plenary session of the first Cuban-Portuguese joint commission meeting was held yesterday in Havana. The Cuban delegation, which is composed of officials of the Foreign Trade Ministry and Cuban Ambassador to Portugal Manuel Estevez, was headed by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas Ruiz. The Portuguese delegation was headed by Carlos Alberto Filipo, secretary of state for foreign trade, who met with Antonio Carrillo, minister ad interim of the Cuban fishing industry, after the joint commission meeting ended.

Trade Protocol Signed

FL171120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Marcelo Fernandez Font, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of foreign trade, has presided at the signing ceremony of the commercial protocol which regulates trade between Cuba and Portugal. The ceremony was held at the Foreign Trade Ministry with the attendance of ministry officials and members of the Portuguese Embassy in Cuba.

CASTILLA MAS RECEIVES ALGERIAN MINISTER

FL171130Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] In Havana city Belarmino Castilla Mas, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has received Algerian Youth and Sports Minister Djamal Houhou, who heads a delegaton which is visiting our country. In the talks Belarmino Castilla referred to the role played by internationalist assistance given by socialist countries and, especially the USSR, in this sphere.

RAMIRO VALDES ATTENDS CONSTRUCTION MEETING

FL160212Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, PCC Politburo member, participated in a management meeting in Holguin to analyze the construction and construction materials production achieved in 1977 and perspectives for the present year for the Construction and Construction Materials Industry ministries in Holguin, Las Tunas and Guantanamo provinces. Greater emphasis was placed on construction and construction materials production development for mining-metallurgical growth in the Moa region.

The causes of delays in these sectors in 1977 were discussed at the meeting, attended by PCC Central Committee members, the party first secretaries of Holguin and Guantanamo, and the construction and construction materials industry ministers. They discussed measures to be applied in support of the objectives for 1978. It was announced at the meeting of delegates from the two ministries that the growth rate in the construction field was more than 20 percent in Las Tunas, 13 percent in Holguin and 19 percent in Guantanamo, all compared with what was achieved in 1977.

In his remarks at the meeting, Ramiro Valdes referred to the completion of projects planned for these three provinces. He called for special attention to diminish absenteeism and reduce machine failure and production costs in search of greater economic efficiency and the application of a strategy to solve supply and other problems which affect the program.

14TH CTC CONGRESS TO BEGIN 27 NOVEMBER

FL151440Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpts] The 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] will be held from 27 November to 2 December this year, the organizing committee of the Cuban proletariat's summit meeting has announced. The CTC congress will convene under the slogan "for a 14th congress aimed at solving our vital economic problems."

With respect to drafts of laws and resolutions, the 14th CTC Congress will examine and approve those dealing with production assembly meetings, innovators and rationalizers, socialist emulation, collective agreements and rights of the enterprise's trade union bureau.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON RHODESIA URGED

FL171220Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Cuba has urged the UN Security Council to guarantee the efficiency of the sanctions imposed on Rhodesia and pointed out the importance of a forceful embargo against Ian Smith's racist regime. In a speech before the council, which is examining the Salisbury regime's aggression against Zambia, Cuban Delegate to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcon declared that it is essential to mobilize the international community to make the sanctions against the Rhodesian regime more effective and to force all states to respect and comply with them.

In an evident reference to the United States and Great Britain, Alarcon charged that the threat to international peace and security in southern Africa would not exist without the military, political and financial aid being given to the racist regime by Western countries which claim to be playing the role of promoters of deceiving initiatives allegedly aimed at solving the area's problems. Alarcon stressed that it has become necessary to redouble support for the Zimbabwe patriotic front and to promote an efficient aid to neighboring African countries which are resisting the aggressions of the Rhodesian regime.

FIRST GROUP OF TEACHERS DEPARTS FOR ANGOLA

FL171305Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The first group of the Che Guevara internationalist teacher detachment departed early this morning via air for Angola. This group of 120 youths will join educational activities in the provinces of Uige, Benguela and Lunda. At a farewell ceremony held at Jose Marti International Airport, Jose Ramon Fernandez, minister of education and member of the PCC Central Committee, wished them many successes on behalf of the Cuban educators. He said: We are sure we will be very proud of what this vanguard of the Cuban revolutionary youth will have accomplished at the end of 1 year of service in Angola. Fernandez pointed out that the members of the teacher internationalist detachment must demonstrate to be true educators with their attitude and example and announced that the youths who will replace the members of the first internationalist contigent will be selected from those currently joining the sixth contingent of the Manuel Ascunce teacher detachment.

Prior to departure, the youths, in firm statements full of profound revolutionary pride, reaffirmed their decision to fulfill the honorable pledge they made to Fidel, the party, the revolution, the fatherland, the youth and the people. The rest of the first contingent, which consists of 732 youths, is scheduled to depart in coming days.

MARIO SOARES, OTHER LEADERS TO ARRIVE 17 MARCH

FL162318Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpt] Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares and Puerto Rican Independence Party President Ruben Berrios will arrive tomorrow in this country along with other foreign social democratic leaders. In addition to them, representatives of social democratic and socialist parties from Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Sweden and France will also arrive. The visitors, who were invited by the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] will be received by President Balaguer, stated the PRD. During their 2 days in the country, the visitors will participate in PRD motorcades to be held in the capital and in the interior.

ALVAREZ BOGAERT ELECTED PR VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

FL142230Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Fernando Alvarez Bogaert has been selected vice presidential candidate for the Reformist Party [PR]. The PR national convention elected Alvarez Bogaert a half hour before Dr Joaquin Balaguer arrived at the ruling party headquarters. Incumbent Vice President Carlos Rafael Goico Morales will be a senatorial candidate for El Seibo province. The PR national convention's selection of Alvarez Bogaert as candidate for vice president of the Republic was made at 1100.

Fernando Alvarez Bogaert returned home several weeks ago and immediately assumed control of the PR electoral campaign. The PR vice presidential candidate currently is Dominican ambassador to Venezuela. He was warmly greeted by his followers and, once the convention ended and the official was leaving the PR headquarters, they caused a commotion which forced the authorities to take action.

The elected PR vice presidential candidate was director of the State Sugar Council, when sugar was selling at the highest international prices in recent times. Alvarez Bogaert also has been finance secretary and Dominican ambassador to Spain.

PENA GOMEZ DENIES CHARGES MADE BY BOSCH

FL151628Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], yesterday denied that he had betrayed Col Francisco Caamano Deno. Pena Gomez yesterday morning granted a press conference to deny having made contacts with the military chief of the April war prior to the landing at Caracoles Beach in February 1973. During those 2 years I was in Europe and had no direct or indirect contact with Col Caamano Deno or anyone representing him, Pena Gomez stated.

The PRD leader made the statements in response to a number of articles published by Prof Juan Bosch in the weekly VANGUARDIA DEL PUEBLO, in which he refers to the 1973 guerrilla landing. Bosch insinuates in his articles that Pena Gomez knew that Caamano Deno was going to land. Juan Bosch says that Pena Gomez had established contact with Caamano Deno without the knowledge of the PRD leadership. In yesterday's press conference, Pena Gomez stated that he never had any type of contact with Caamano.

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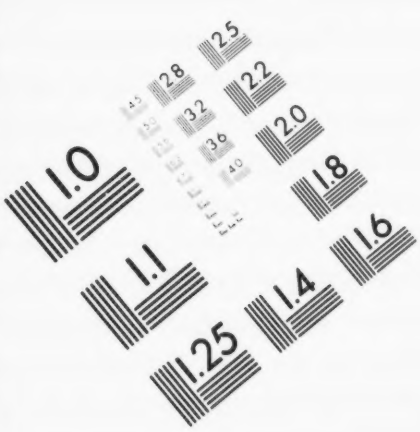

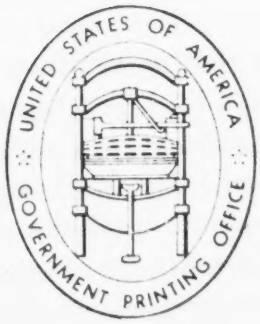

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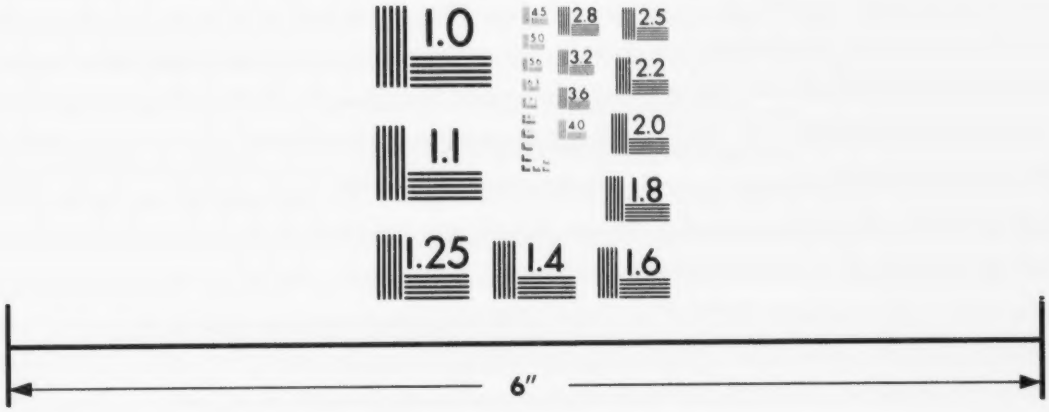

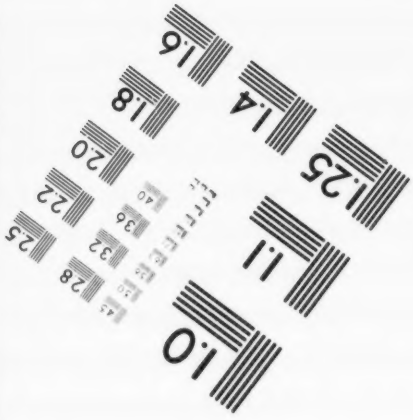

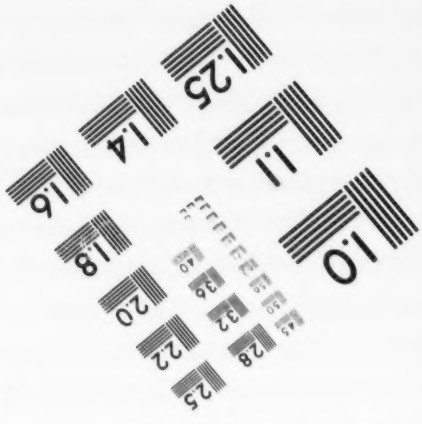

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